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TOUR
THROUGH THE ISLAND OF
GREAT BRITAIN.
DIVIDED INTO
CIRCUITS OR JOURNIES.

CONTAINING,

I. A Description of the Principal Cities and Towns, their Situation, Government, and Commerce.
II. The Customs, Manners, Exercises, Diversions, and Employments of the People.
III. The Nature and Virtue of the many Medicinal Springs with which both Parts of the United Kingdom abound.
IV. An ample Description of London, including Westminster and Southwark, their Bridges, Squares, Hospitals, Churches, Palaces, Markets, Schools, Li-

braries, Shipping in the *Thames*, and Trade, by means of that noble River, &c.
V. The Produce and Improvement of the Lands, the Trade, and Manufactures.
VI. The Sea Ports and Fortifications, the Course of Rivers, and the Inland Navigation.
VII. The Public Edifices, Seats, and Palaces of the Nobility and Gentry.
VIII. The Isles of *Wight*, *Scilly*, *Portland*, *Jersey*, *Guernsey*, and the other English and Scotch Isles of most Note.

Interspersed with Useful Observations.

Particularly fitted for the Perusal of such as desire to Travel over the ISLAND.

Originally begun by the Celebrated DANIEL DE FOE, continued by the late Mr. RICHARDSON, Author of *Clarissa*, &c. and brought down to the present Time by Gentlemen of Eminence in the Literary World.

The EIGHTH EDITION,
With great Additions and Improvements.

IN FOUR VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

LONDON:

Printed for W. STRAHAN, J. F. and C. RIVINGTON, J. BUCKLAND, R. BALDWIN, T. LONGMAN, T. CASLON, J. RICHARDSON, T. LOWNDES, W. STUART, T. BECKET, S. BLADON, T. CADELL, E. and C. DILLY, J. NICHOLS, W. FLEXNEY, W. GOLDSMITH, G. BURNET, and J. BELL. 1778.



P R E F A C E.

A Long Preface must undoubtedly appear unnecessary to a work, which has already so far received the sanction of the Public, as to have gone through eight editions. It would, however, be doing injustice to the original author, as well as depriving the reader of the satisfaction he ought to have, in knowing how much he may depend on the merits of the piece, if we did not transcribe the following account which he gives of the pains he took, and how well qualified he was for such a task.

"THE preparations for this work (says the author) have been suitable to my earnest concern for its usefulness. Seventeen very large circuits, or journies, have been taken through divers parts separately, and three general tours over almost the whole *English* part of the island; in all which the author has not been wanting to treasure up just remarks upon particular places and things.

"BESIDES these several journies in *England*, he has also lived some time in *Scotland*, and has travelled critically over great part of it: he has

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viewed the north part of *England*, and the south part of *Scotland*, five several times over. All which is hinted here, to let the readers know, what reason they have to be satisfied with the authority of the relation."

THIS was part of the author's preface to his first edition.

THE succeeding editions received great improvements, as well as very considerable additions; which not only time, but the erecting of new structures, the adorning of many fine seats, and the alterations in harbours, ports, and havens, made necessary to be taken notice of. Such changes will always happen, as leave room for improvement in a work of this nature.

WITH respect to the present edition, the whole is brought down to the month of *August*, 1778, and presents to the reader a modern geographical state of *Great Britain*. Whoever shall compare the former edition with the present, will be convinced of the labour this has cost, and the attention that has been paid to its improvement.

MODERN travellers have enabled us to give a more accurate description of the principality of *Wales*, than could reasonably be expected in the former edition, many gentlemen having, since

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since that time, traversed the *Welsh* mountains, and critically noticed the towns, modes, manners, and customs, of that part of our island. The accounts of the *English* and *Scotch* islands are, in general, considerably improved, and some of them entirely written afresh. The description of every county in the kingdom has been modernized, and many of their natural beauties, hitherto unnoticed, brought forth to view, particularly those of the northern counties, as *Yorkshire*, *Lancashire*, *Westmorland*, and *Cumberland*. The two last counties were formerly considered as little better than barren and inhospitable deserts, and, being so remote from the metropolis, were seldom visited as the objects of pleasure, till the amazing improvements lately made (and still making) in all the roads through the kingdom, gave a spur to travellers of independent fortunes, who have now made us almost as well acquainted with the northern, as we before were with the southern parts of our island.

MANY of the first literary characters of the age, at the two universities, and in most capital towns, have favoured us with their assistance, which we here gratefully acknowledge. The
value

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value of their favours would have been considerably encreased, had we been permitted to mention their names. *Pennant, Johnson, Hutchins, Enfield, Campbell, Burn,* and other modern writers of reputation, have been carefully consulted, and occasionally followed.

FROM these copious sources of materials, from the informations of gentlemen resident on, or in the neighbourhood of, the spots they have described, and from our own observations in the course of our journies, we flatter ourselves, that the present edition will be considered, by every traveller, as a useful companion, on a tour through the whole or any part of *Great Britain*.

To this edition the proprietors have added two modern maps, of *England* and *Scotland*, which every reader will consider as an improvement to a work of this nature.

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A TOUR

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T O U R
THROUGH THE ISLAND OF
GREAT BRITAIN.

L E T T E R I.

A DESCRIPTION of Part of the County of Essex, and of the County of SUFFOLK, &c.

 SET out from *London* on my first journey, Eastward; and took a circuit down by the coast of the *Thames* through the marshes or hundreds, on the South-side of the county of *Essex*, to *Malden*, *Colchester*, and *Harwich*; thence continuing on the coast of *Suffolk* to *Yarmouth*; thence round by the edge of the sea, on the North and West-side of *Norfolk*, to *Lynn*, *Wisbech*, and the *Wash*; thence back again on

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the North-side of *Suffolk*; thence into the county of *Cambridge*; and so to the West-part of *Essex*, ending it in *Middlesex*, near the place where I began; reserving the middle or centre of the several counties to some little excursions, which I made by themselves.

After we have passed *Mile End*, as it is called (a Part of the Town not thinly inhabited) the first village we come to is *Bow*, where, some years ago, a large manufactory for the making of porcelain was established. Large quantities of tea-equipages, plates, dishes, tureins, &c. were made at this place; but, whether from the clumsiness of the manufacture, which, being chiefly designed for common use, was made strong and heavy, or want of capital in the undertakers, or the more prosperous endeavours of similar establishments, it has long been at an end.

Passing *Bow Bridge*, where the county of *Essex* begins, I came first to the village of *Stratford*, which is greatly increased of late years in houses and inhabitants, every vacancy being filled up, in a manner, with the addition of two little new-built hamlets, as they may be called, on the forest-side of the town; namely, *Maryland-Point*, and the *Gravel-Pits*, one facing the Road to *Woodford* and *Epping*, and the other that to *Ilford*. As for the hither-part, it is almost joined to *Bow*, in spite of rivers, canals, marshy grounds, &c.

The same increase of buildings may be seen proportionally in the other villages adjacent, especially on the forest side; as at *Low-Layton*, *Layton-stone*, *Walthamstow*, *Woodford*, *Wanstead*, *West-Ham*, *Plaistow*, *Upton*, &c. and this, generally speaking, of handsome large houses, from 50*l.* a year, and upwards, being chiefly the habitations of the rich citizens, who are able to keep a country-house, as well as a town one, or of such as have left-off trade altogether. This is apparent from the number of carriages which are kept

kept in the circle already mentioned, which, I am credibly informed, do not amount to less than between three and four hundred.

There have been discerned of late years, in the bottom of *Hackney Marsh*, between *Old Ford* and the *Wyck*, the remains of a great stone-causeway, which is supposed to have been the highway, or great road, from *London* to *Essex*, instead of that which now leads over the Bridge between *Bow* and *Stratford*.

That the great road lay this way, and that the great causeway continued just over the river, where now the *Temple Mills* stand, and passed by Sir *Henry Hicks's* house at *Ruckholt*, is not doubted; and that it was one of those famous highways made by the *Romans*, there is undeniable proof, by the several marks of *Roman* works, and by *Roman* coins, and other Antiquities, found there, some of which were collected by the late Reverend Mr. *Strype*, vicar of *Low-Layton*.

The land in the neighbourhood of *Stratford*, *Maryland-Point*, &c. has of late years been much improved by the cultivation of potatoes, which have increased so much, as that some hundred acres are annually planted there; but by the culture of these roots, the great tithes of these parishes are reduced to less than half of their former value, since it has been determined that the tithe of *potatoes* belongs to the vicar.

From hence the great road passed up to *Layton-stone*, a place known now by the sign of the *Green-Man*, formerly a lodge upon the edge of the forest; and, crossing by *Wanstead-house*, the noble seat of Earl *Tilney*, went over the same river, which we now cross at *Ilford*; and, passing that part of the great forest called *Henault-forest*, came into the present great road, a little on this side the *Whalebone*, a place so called, because a rib-bone of a large Whale, taken

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in the river of *Thames*, was fixed there in 1658, the year that *Oliver Cromwell* died, and continued until 1764.

According to my intention, of effectually viewing the sea-coasts of *Essex*, *Suffolk*, and *Norfolk*, I went from *Stratford* to *Barking*, chiefly inhabited by Fishermen, whose smacks ride in the *Thames*, at the Mouth of *Barking Creek*, from whence their fish are sent up to *London*, to the market at *Billinggate*, in small boats.

These fishing-smacks are very useful vessels to the public upon many occasions; as particularly in time of war they are used as press-smacks, running to all the Northern and Western coasts to pick up seamen to man the Navy, when any expedition is at hand that requires a sudden equipment. At other times, being excellent sailers, they are tenders to particular men of war; and, on an expedition, they have been made use of as machines for the blowing-up fortified ports, as formerly at *St. Malo*, and other places.

Barking is a good market town on the river *Lee*, which empties itself into the *Thames*, a little below the town, and by means of which it carries on a good trade in various articles. Here formerly was a rich abbey of Nuns, of the Order of *St. Benedict*, and the second in *England* in point of antiquity, being founded by *Erkenwald*, bishop of *London*, in 666. Of the building, however, there remain only two gate-houses, the one of stone, and the other of brick.

This side of the county is rather rich from the nature of its land, than from the number of its inhabitants, which is occasioned by the unhealthiness of the air; for these low marsh-grounds, which, with all the south-side of the county, have been gained, as it were, out of the river *Thames*, and the sea, where the river is wide enough to be called so, begin here,

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here, or rather at *West Ham*, by *Stratford*, and extend themselves from hence Eastward; growing wider, till we come beyond *Tilbury*, when the flat country lies six, seven, or eight miles in breadth, and is both unhealthy and unpleasant.

However, it is very good farming in the marshes, because the landlords let good penayworths, though the land is rich; for, it being a place where every body cannot live, those that venture it will have encouragement; and it is but reasonable they should.

In passing from *Barking* to *Dagenham*, we saw the place where was the famous breach, that in 1707 laid near 5000 acres of land under water; but which, after near ten years inundation, and the works being several times blown up, was at last effectually stopped by captain *Perry*, who for several years had been employed in the Czar of *Muscovy*'s works, at *Veronitza*, on the river *Don*. The church is a handsome Gothic building; and a clear brook runs through the town, and turns a mill. Several gentlemens seats are here scattered about; and particularly that of *Thomas Fanshaw*, esq; whose family has long resided at this place.

From hence, through a continuation of shady lanes, which bring you down upon the meadows or marshes, you come to *Raynham*, a small but pretty village, where captain *Harle*, about fifty years since, made a wharf and creek from it into the *Thames*, and thereby increased the trade of the place. The church has rather a mean appearance; but part of it is of Saxon architecture. The knights of *St. John of Jerusalem* had here formerly a manor, park, and lodge, of retirement.

From *Raynham*, the road runs along the edge of the marshes, from whence it turns up into the country, and, after a continued rise of more than a mile, it divides at the summit of the hill. The left-

hand road leads to *Hornchurch*, and *Romford*; and that on the right, to *Aveley*. A little further is the entrance into lord *Dacre's* grounds, through which a neat gravel walk winds near a mile, surrounded with large pastures, which slope gently down to the park Eastward, which is well planted, commanding Southward the village of *Aveley*, and a pretty vale in which it stands, with a most pleasant and broken country beyond. On the North, the eye extends over a woody tract, the *Warley* and *Brentwood* hills, in which villages and farm houses are interspersed. On reaching the house, which stands a little way in the park, on the East, you discover the offices, surrounded by a skeen of elms. To the South, is an extensive lawn; and the West is fringed with plantations of ancient and lofty trees. The house is defended from the North by a grove of very high and venerable limes, which joining to woods still larger, they make a continuation of shade for a mile at least. A serpentine river crosses the Eastern side of the park, and has all the appearance of nature, though in fact only the work of art. This seat is called *Bellhouse*, from the name of its ancient owners, who built it in the reign of *Henry VIII.* and is of the style of that time, which, in all the later alterations, has been strictly adhered to.

About a mile Southward lies *Aveley*, a neat village, formerly a market-town. It is situated in a valley, and is watered by a little brook, descending from the hills at the upper end of it towards *Thorndon*.

The small village of *Purfleet* lies at the mouth of this valley, close to the *Thames*, inhabited chiefly by the people belonging to the chalk-pits, which are in the hands of a company, who carry on from hence a very great traffic for lime. The walks among the vast caverns here are very romantic, and the views from the tops of the hills delightful. Here are likewise

a very

a very large magazine for gun powder, belonging to government; and a handsome house and pleasant garden, for the reception of the board of ordnance.

A little beyond this place lies *Grays*, a small market-town, situated on the edge of the river *Thames*, from whence great quantities of corn are exported.

Great part of the lands in the Levels, especially those on this side *East-Tilbury*, are held by the farmers, cow keepers, and grasing butchers, who live in and near *London*, and generally stock them with *Lincolnshire* and *Leicestershire* wethers (which they buy in *Smithfield* in *September* and *October*, when the graziers sell off their stocks), and feed here till *Christmas* or *Candlemas*; and though they are not made much fatter here than when bought in, yet very good advantage accrues by the difference of the price of mutton between *Michaelmas* when cheapest, and *Candlemas* when dearest; and this is what the butchers call, by way of excellence, right marsh-mutton. This mutton is generally taken, by persons who are ignorant in the choice of meat, to be turnip-fed, because the fat generally turns yellowish; but this is a great mistake; for the sheep, which are fattened with turnips, are by far the best of any killed for the markets.

At the end of these marshes, close to the edge of the river, stands *Tilbury Fort*, which may justly be looked upon as the key of the city of *London*: it is a regular fortification; the design of it was a pentagon, but the water-bastion, as it should have been called, was never built: the plan was laid-out by Sir *Martin Beckman*, chief Engineer to king *Charles II.* who also designed the works at *Sheerness*. The esplanade of the fort is very large, and the bastions the largest of any in *England*. The foundation is laid upon piles driven down, two-an-end of one another, so far, till they were assured they were below the channel of the

river, and that the piles, which were shod with iron, entered into the solid chalk-rock, adjoining to the chalk-hills on the other side.

The works to the land-side are complete; the bastions are faced with brick. There is a double ditch or moat, the innermost of which is 180 feet broad; a good counterscarp, and a covered way marked out, with ravelins and tenailles; but they have not been completed.

On the land-side there are also two small redoubts of brick; but the chief strength of this fort on the land-side consists in being able to lay the whole level under water, and so to make it impossible for an enemy to carry on approaches that way.

On the side next the river, is a very strong curtain, with a noble gate called the *Watergate* in the middle, and the ditch is palisadoed. At the place where the water-bastion was designed to be built, and which, by the plan, should run wholly out into the river, so as to flank the two curtains on each side, stands an high tower, which, they tell us, was built in Queen Elizabeth's time, and was called the *Block-house*.

Before this curtain, is a platform in the place of a counterscarp, on which are planted 106 cannon, generally carrying from 24 to 46 pound ball; a battery so terrible, as to shew the consequence of that place: besides which, there are smaller pieces planted between them; and the bastions and curtains also are planted with guns, so that they must be bold fellows who will venture in the biggest ships to pass such a battery, if the men appointed to serve the guns do their duty.

From hence there is nothing for many miles together remarkable, but a continued level of unhealthy marshes called *The Three Hundreds*, till we come before *Leigh*, and to the mouth of the rivers *Chelmer* and *Blackwater*,

Blackwater, except that the towns of *Horndon*, *Rayley*, and *Rochford*, lie near the sea coast, extending in the order I have named, but are of no note. The above rivers, united, make a large firth, or inlet of the sea, which our fishermen, and seamen, who use it as a port, call *Malden-water*.

In this inlet is *Osey* or *Osyth* island, so well known by our *London* men of pleasure for producing such vast numbers of wild-ducks, mallards, teals, and wigeons, that the island seems covered with them at certain times of the year; and they go from *London* for the pleasure of shooting, and often come home with an *Essex*ague on their backs, which they find an heavier load than the fowls they have shot.

On the shore, beginning a little below *Canvey Island*, or *Leigh Road*, lies a great shoal or sand, called the *Black Tail*, which runs out near three leagues into the sea, Due-East; at the end of it stands a pole or mast, set up by the *Trinity-house* of *London*, as a sea-mark: this is called *Shoe-beacon*, from the point of land where this sand begins, which is called *Shoeberry-nes*, from a town of that name, which stands by it. From this sand, and on the edge of *Shoeberry* before it, or South-west of it, all along, to the mouth of *Colchester-water*, the shore is full of shoals and sands, with some deep channels between; all which are so full of fish, that the *Barking* smacks are well employed here, and the shore swarms, besides, with small fisher-boats, belonging to the villages and towns on the coast, which come in every tide with what they take, and, selling the smaller fish in the country, send the best and largest upon horses, which travel night and day, to the *London* markets.

On this shore also are taken the best and most relishing, though not the largest, oysters in *England*. The spot from whence they have their appellation is a little bank called *Wallop*, or *Walfleet*, in the mouth

of the river *Crouch*, called *Crooksea-water*; but the chief place where these oysters are now had is from *Wivenhoe*, and the shores adjacent, whither they are brought by the fishermen, who take them at the mouth of *Colchester-water*, and about the sand they call the *Spits*, and carry them up to *Wivenhoe*, where they are laid in beds or pits on the shore, to feed, as they call it; and then, being barrelled up, and carried to *Colchester*, which is but three miles off, they are sent to *London* by land, and are from thence called *Colchester* oysters. A great quantity of these oysters are brought from the coast of *Sussex*, near *Bognor-rock*, where I have seen more than a dozen vessels together dredging for oysters, which were carried to *Colchester* and laid in their beds.

The following short account of the nature of these Green or *Colchester* oysters, and the manner of managing them, cannot fail of being acceptable.

"In the month of *May* the oysters cast their spawn, which the dredgers call their *Spat*. It resembles a drop of candle-grease, and is about the bigness of an halfpenny. The *Spat* cleaves to stones, old oyster-shells, pieces of wood, and such-like things at the bottom of the sea, which they call *cultch*. It is probably conjectured, that the *Spat*, in 24 hours, begins to have a shell.

"In the month of *May* the dredgers (by the law of the admiralty-court) have liberty to catch all manner of oysters, of what size soever. When they have taken them, with a knife they raise the small breed from the *cultch*; and then they throw the *cultch* in again, to preserve the ground for the future, unless they be so newly *spat*, that they cannot be safely severed from the *cultch*. In that case they are permitted to take the stone or shell, &c. that the *spat* is upon; one shell having many times 20 *spats*.

"After

" After the month of *May*, it is felony to carry away the cultch, and punishable to take any other oysters, unless it be those of size, that is to say, about the bigness of an half-crown piece, or when, the shells being shut, a fair shilling will rattle between them.

" The places where these oysters are chiefly caught, are called the *Burnham*, *Malden*, and *Coln-waters*: The latter takes its name from the river *Coln*, which passes by *Colchester*, gives name to that town, and runs into a creek of the sea at a place called the *Hythe*, being the suburbs of the town.

" This brood, and other oysters, they carry to creeks of the sea, at *Brecklessea*, *Mersea*, *Langenlio*, *Fibagribugo*, *Wyvenhoe*, *Tolesbury*, and *Saltcot*, and there throw them into the channel, which they call their beds, or layers, where they grow and fatten; and in two or three years the smallest brood will be oysters of the size aforesaid. Those oysters, which they would have green, they put into pits about three feet deep in the salt-marshes, which are overflowed only at spring-tides, to which they have sluices, and let out the salt-water till it is about a foot and a half deep.

" The pits in which the oysters become green, are those which are only overflowed by the sea in spring-tides; so that during the neap-tides a green scum is formed over the surface of the water, which, being taken-in by the fish daily, gives them their green colour, for which reason the people of *Colchester* never chuse to eat the green oysters, but always prefer the white, believing them to be more wholesome.

" The oysters, when the tide comes in, lie with their hollow shell downwards; and, when it goes out, they turn on the other side. They remove not

from their place, unless in cold weather, to cover themselves in the ooze.

" There are great penalties by the admiralty-court laid upon those that fish out of those grounds which the court appoints, or that destroy the cultch, or that take oysters that are not of size, or that do not tread under their feet, or throw upon the shore, a fish which they call a five-finger, resembling the rowel of a spur, because that fish gets into the oysters when they gape, and sucks them out.

" The reason why such a penalty is set upon any that shall destroy the cultch, is, because they find, that, if that be taken away, the ooze will increase; and then mussels and cockles will breed there, and destroy the oysters, they having not whereon to stick their spat.

" The oysters are sick after they have spat, but in June and July they begin to mend, and in August they are perfectly well. The male oyster is black-sick, having a black substance in the fin; the female white-sick (as they term it), having a milky substance in the fin. They are salt in the pits, falter in the layers, but faltest at sea."

They take also at Colchester fine Soals, which generally yield a good price at London market; also sometimes middling turbot, with whiting, codlings, and large flounders.

In the several creeks and openings, on this shore, are also other islands, but of no great note, except Mersey, which lies between the two openings of Malden-water and Colchester-water; and is a place of such difficult access, that it is thought 1000 men anigh keep possession of it against a great force, whether by land or sea. On this account, and because, if possessed by an enemy, it would shut-up all the navigation and fishery on that side, a fort was built on the

the South-east point of it; and generally, in a Dutch war, a strong garrison is kept there to defend it.

At this place may be said to end what we call *The Three Hundreds of Essex*, which include the marshy country; to wit, *Barnstable hundred*, *Rochford hundred*, and *Dengy hundred*.

One thing deserves mention here; which is, that all along this country it is very frequent to meet with men that have had from 5 or 6, to 10 or 12 wives; and I was informed, that in the marshes, over-against *Canvey Island*, was a farmer, who was then living with the 25th; and that his son, who was but 35 years old, had already had about 14. Indeed this part of the story I only had by report, though from good hands; but the other is well known, and will be attested, about *Fobbing*, *Curriingham*, *Thunderfly*, *Benfleet*, *Prittlewell*, *Wakering*, *Great Stambridge*, *Cricksea*, *Burnham*, *Dengy*, and other towns of the like situation. The reason, as a merry fellow told me, who said he had had about a dozen, was this, that they being bred in the marshes themselves, and seasoned to the place, did pretty well; but that they generally chose to leave their own lasses to their neighbours out of the marshes, and went into the uplands for a wife: that, when they took the young women out of the wholesome fresh air, they were clear and healthy; but, when they came into the marshes amongst the fogs and damps, they presently changed complexion, got an ague or two, and seldom held it above half a year, or a year at most: and then, said he, we go to the uplands again, and fetch another. So that marrying of wives was reckoned a kind of good farm to them. Nor do the men in these parts hold it out, as in other countries; for we seldom meet with very ancient people among the poor; insomuch that hardly one half of the inhabitants are natives

natives of the place; but such as come from other parts, for the advantage of good farms.

From the marshes, and low grounds, being not able to travel without many windings and indentures, by reason of the creeks and waters, I came up to the ancient town of *Malden*, situate at the conflux of two principal rivers, the *Chelmer* and the *Black-water*, where they enter the sea. It is built in the form of a cross, is a liberty in itself, and has a convenient haven for ships of about 400 tons: it consists of one street near a mile long, besides lanes, &c. It is governed by two bailiffs, six aldermen, a steward, recorder, &c. and sends two members to Parliament. Here is a good public library for the use of the minister and the clergy of the hundreds adjoining to the sea; and any gentleman may borrow a book, upon depositing the value of it. It was founded by Dr. *Plume*, archdeacon of *Rochester*.

The channel called *Malden-water* is navigable to the town; where, by that means, is a great trade for carrying corn by water to *London*; the county of *Essex* being (especially on that side) a great corn country.

Malden was a *Roman* colony, which *Camden* diffidently conjectures to be the ancient *Camulodunum*. But Mr. *Sammon* will have it to be the *Villa Fauslini*, which has been so long attributed to *St. Edmund'sbury*: but, however that be, it was here the *Britons*, under the valiant *Boadicea*, cut in pieces the ninth legion. She killed there, and in her march to *London*, above 80,000 *Romans*, and destroyed the colony; but she was afterwards overthrown herself in a great battle, 80,000 *Britons* slain, and herself and daughters most inhumanly treated and disgraced, by those great reformers of the world, who, in her case, forgot not only the honour due to the sex, but that

that which the truly brave shew to the brave in misfortune.

Being obliged to come thus far into the Uplands, I made it my road to pass through *Witham*, a pleasant, well-situated market-town, in which, and in its neighbourhood, are the seats of many gentlemen of good fortune and families. It has several fine inns, and many people resort hither in summer, to drink a chalybeat-water, called the *Spa*. At this place is the seat of lord *Abercorn*, which generally had the honour of accommodating the late king, on his progress to and from his *German* dominions; and has frequently been of the same consequence to other royal personages, particularly to her present majesty, who was received and entertained here on her first arrival in *England*.

Nearer *Chelmsford*, hard by *Boreham*, is the famous seat of *Beaulieu*, in which king *Henry VIII.* very much delighted. It is now called *Newhall*, and was the seat of *John Olmius*, Esq; now of his son, lord *Waltham*, of the kingdom of *Ireland*. It is the largest edifice in the county next *Audley-end*.

The product of all this part of the country is corn, as that of the marshy-feeding grounds is grass, where their chief busines is breeding of calves, which I need not say are the best and fattest, and the largest veal in *England*, if not in the world.

Colchester, the *Colonia* of the *Romans*, is pleasantly situated upon an eminence above the river *Colne*. It is a large and populous town, adorned with handsome streets; and though it cannot be said to be finely built, yet there are abundance of good houses in it. In the conclusion of the great civil war it suffered a severe siege, which, as it made a resolute defence, was turned into a blockade, wherein the garrison, and inhabitants also, suffered the utmost extremity of hunger, and were at last obliged to surrender at discretion;

cretion ; where their two chief officers, Sir *Charles Lucas* and Sir *George Lisle*, were cruelly shot to death, under the castle-wall, for their bravery.

The battered walls, the breaches in the turrets, and the ruined churches, still shew marks of this siege, except that the church of *St. Mary* (where was the royal fort) is rebuilt ; but the steeple, which was two-thirds battered down (the besieged having a large culverin upon it, which did much execution), remains still in that condition.

The lines of contravallation, which surrounded the whole town, and the forts of the besiegers, remain very visible in many places.

The river *Colne*, which passes through the town, encompasses it on the north and east ; and served, in time of war, for a complete defence on those sides. There are three bridges over it, and it is navigable within three miles of the town, for ships of large burthen ; a little lower it may receive even a royal navy ; and up to that part called the *Hythe*, close to the houses, it is navigable for hoyes and small barks.

The *Hythe* is a long street, passing from west to east, on the south side of the town, and is so populous towards the river, that it may be called *The Wapping of Colchester*. There is one church in that part of the town, a large quay by the river, and a good custom-house.

The town chiefly subsists by the trade of making bays, though indeed all the towns around carry on the same trade ; as *Kelvedon*, *Witham*, *Coggeshall*, *Braintree*, *Bocking*, &c. and the whole country, large as it is, may be said to be employed, and in part maintained, by the spinning of wool for the bays-trade of *Colchester*, and its adjacent villages.

The town of *Colchester* has been supposed to contain about 40,000 people, including the out-villages within its liberty, of which there are many, the liberty

berty of the town being of a large extent. It is governed by a mayor, high-steward, a recorder, or his deputy, eleven aldermen, a chamberlain, a town-clerk, eighteen assistants, and eighteen common-councilmen; and sends two members to parliament.

There are in *Colchester* ten parish-churches, and five meeting-houses, whereof two for quakers; besides one *Dutch* and one *French* church. Its other public edifices are,

1. *Bay ball*, where the goodness of the manufacture of bays made in this town is ascertained by a corporation established for this purpose, consisting of a set of men called governors of the *Dutch Bay-ball*.
2. The *Guildhall* of the town, called by them the *Moot-ball*; contiguous to which is the town-gaol.
3. The *Work house* for the poor.
4. A *Grammar Free-school*; which has good allowance for the master, who is chosen by the town.
5. The *Castle of Colchester* is a monument of the antiquity of the place, being built, as the walls of the town also are, with *Roman* bricks; and the *Roman* coins dug up here, and plowed up in the fields adjoining, confirm it. The inhabitants boast, that *Helena*, the mother of *Constantine the Great*, first Christian emperor of the *Romans*, was born here; but it would be hard to make it out. Mr. *Camden* says, That this castle was, in his time, ready to fall with age; and yet it has stood a great number of years since, and perhaps is not much worse than it was then, although it received several cannon shot in the last siege of the town, which made no impression upon it, as the besiegers found, and therefore left-off firing against it; and the rather, as the garrison made no great use of it against them. It has been much demolished since by the hands of a private person, and considerably repaired by Mr. *Gray*. There was likewise

likewise a *Roman* military way from *Colchester*, by *Braintree*, *Dunmow*, and farther that way.

6. Two charity-schools, supported by subscription.

From *Colchester* I took a turn down to the coast. The land running out a great way into the sea, south and south-east, makes that Promontory of land, called the *Nase*, well known to seamen who use the northern trade. Here is seen a sea open as an ocean, without any opposite shore, though it is no more than the mouth of the *Thames*. This point, called the *Nase*, and the north-east point of *Kent* near *Margate*, called the *North Foreland*, make the mouth of the river, and the Port of *London*, and is above 60 miles over.

The port of *London* is understood to reach no farther than *Gravesend* in *Kent*, and *Tilbury-point* in *Essex*; and the ports of *Rochester*, *Milton*, and *Feverham*, belong to the port of *Sandwich*.

In like manner the ports of *Harwich*, *Colchester*, *Wyvenhoe*, *Malden*, *Leigh*, &c. are said to be members of the port of *Ipswich*.

This observation may suffice for what is needful to be said upon the same subject, when I come to speak of the port of *Sandwich*, and its members, and their privileges with respect to *Rochester*, *Milton*, *Feverham*, &c. in my circuit through the county of *Kent*.

At *Walton*, under the *Nase*, they find on the shore copperas-stones in great quantities; and there are several large works called copperas-houses, where it is made with great expence.

From hence we go back into the county about four miles, because of the creeks which lie between; and, turning east again, come to *Harwich*, on the utmost eastern point of this large county.

Harwich is a town strong by situation, and may be made more so by art. The harbour or road is one of the securest in *England*, and covered at the entrance

entrance by *Langard-fort*, and a battery of guns to the seaward, just as at *Tilbury*, and which sufficiently defend the mouth of the river. Though the entrance or opening of the river into the sea is very wide, especially at high-water, at least two miles, if not three, over; yet the channel, in which the ships must keep and come to the harbour, is deep, narrow, and lies only on the side of the fort; so that all ships which come in, or go out, must come within gun-shot of the fort.

The fort is on the *Suffolk* side of the bay, but stands so far into the sea, upon the point of a sand, or shoal, running out towards the *Essex* side, that, in a manner, it covers the mouth of the haven. The making this place, which was formerly no other than a sand in the sea, solid enough for the foundation of so good a fortification, cost many years labour, frequent repairs, and a prodigious expence; but it is now so firm, that neither storms nor tides affect it.

The harbour is of a vast extent; for the river *Stour* from *Maningtree*, and the river *Orwel* from *Ipswich*, empty themselves here: the channels of both are large and deep, and safe for all weathers; and where they join, they make a large bay, or road, able to receive the biggest ships of war, and the greatest number that ever the world saw together. In the Dutch war, great use was made of this harbour; and there have been 100 sail of men of war with their attendants, and between 3 and 400 sail of colliers, all riding in it at a time, with great safety and convenience.

Harwich is the port where the packet-boats between *England* and *Holland* go out, and come in.

The people of *Harwich* boast, that their town is walled, and their streets paved, with clay; and yet, that one is as strong, and the other as clean, as those that

that are built or paved with stone. The fact is indeed true; for there is a sort of clay in the cliff, between the town and the *Beacon-hill* adjoining, which, when it falls down into the sea, where it is beaten with the waves and the weather, turns gradually into stone. But the chief reason assigned is from the water of a certain spring or well, which, rising in the cliff, runs down into the sea among those pieces of clay, and petrifies them as it runs; and the force of the sea often stirring, and perhaps turning the lumps of clay, when storms of wind may give force enough to the water, causes them to harden every where alike; otherwise those, which were not quite sunk in the water of the spring, would be petrified but in part. These stones are gathered up to pave the streets, and build the houses, and are indeed very hard. It is also remarkable, that some of them, taken up before they are thoroughly petrified, will, upon breaking them, appear to be hard as a stone without, and soft as clay in the middle; whereas others, that have lain a due time, will be thorough stone to the centre, and full as hard within as without.

On the promontory of land, called *Beacon-hill*, which lies beyond, or behind the town, toward the sea, is a light-house, to give the ships direction in their sailing by the harbour, as well as their coming into it at night.

This town was formerly fortified; but in the reign of king *Charles I.* the fortifications were demolished. It has since been ordered to be fortified again, and ground has been bought accordingly, to the king's use, by act of parliament; but nothing more has been done in it yet; and, indeed, it is many years since the government, having a better security in the *British* shipping, have had occasion to fortify towns to the landward.

Harwich

Harwich may be said to be a neat, clean, well-built town; enjoys a good maritime trade; is governed by a mayor, eight aldermen, twenty-four capital burgesses, and a recorder; the mayor has a power to keep courts of admiralty, which have a jurisdiction over all naval affairs; the town has a market every *Tuesday* and *Friday*, and two annual fairs; one on *May-day*, the other on *Otōber* the 18th; and returns two members to parliament.

Landguard-fort was built in the reign of king James I. and was a much more considerable fortification then, than at present; having had four bastions, named the *King's*, the *Queen's*, *Holland's*, and *Warwick's*, mounted with 60 very large guns, particularly those on the royal bastion, where the king's standard was display'd, which would throw a 28 pound ball over *Harwich*; and it had a constant garrison, with a chapel, and many houses, for the governor, gunners, and other officers. But it has been demolished, and a small platform made instead of it, by the water-side; but yet, as the particular current of the channel, which ships must keep in, obliges them to pass just by the fort, the harbour is sufficiently defended on the sea-side from any sudden invasion.

At *Harwich* are two hot and two cold salt-water baths, of elegant structure and curious contrivance, with private dressing-rooms for gentlemen and ladies, separated from each other.

The buildings stand in a large reservoir, containing many hundred tuns of pure sea-water, renewed by every tide from the sea; from this reservoir the baths are continually supplied with pure running sea-water, at every hour of the day, by a contrivance that exactly resembles a natural spring.

For

For the convenience of such as have not strength or courage to plunge themselves, there is a crane-chair of particular contrivance.

There are also vapour-baths, either for immersing the whole body, or any particular limb or limbs, in the steam or vapour of hot sea-water. Here is also partial large bathing, for which a curious machine is provided to throw sea-water, either hot or cold (in a continual stream, and any desired velocity) upon any part of the body.

On the road from *London* to *Colchester* lie four good market-towns, at nearly equal distance from one another, *Rumford*, *Brentwood*, *Ingatestone*, and *Chelmsford*. *Rumford* is noted for two markets, one for calves and hogs, the other for corn and other provisions, mostly bought up for *London* market.

Rumford is governed by a bailiff and wardens, who are empowered by patent, though no corporation, to hold a court every week, for the trial of treasons, felonies, debts, or other actions. It has a charity-school for 50 boys and 20 girls.

Brentwood and *Ingatestone* are large thoroughfare towns, full of good inns, chiefly maintained by the multitude of carriers and passengers constantly passing this way to *London*, with droves of cattle, provisions, and manufactures.

Chelmsford is chiefly supported by the same business. It is the county-town, where the assizes are held; and stands on the conflux of two rivers, the *Chelmer*, whence the town derives its name, and the *Cann*; and has one church, and a good free-school belonging to it, founded and endowed liberally by king *Edward VI*. Also a charity-school for 45 boys, and 25 girls, who are taught, clothed, and apprenticed, by private donations.

East of *Brentwood*, lies *Billericay*, a pretty considerable market town. Here I must recollect, that near

near *Hernden*, on the summit of a vast hill, the most astonishing prospect, that ever was beheld by human eyes, breaks almost at once upon one of the dark lanes. Such a prodigious valley, every where painted with the finest verdure, and intersected with numberless hedges and woods, appears beneath you, that it is past description, the *Thames* winding through it, full of ships, and bounded by the hills of *Kent*. Nothing can exceed this amazing prospect, unless it be that which *Hannibal* exhibited to his disconsolate troops, when he bade them behold the glory of the *Italian* plains !

Near *Chelmsford* stands a seat of the late right honourable earl *Fitzwalter*, which is seen on the left-hand of the road, just before you enter the town. The house is large, and, having been rebuilt by the late earl, makes an handsome appearance.

Five market-towns fill up the rest of this part of the county, *Dunmow*, *Braintree*, *Thaxted*, *Halstead*, and *Coggeshall*, all noted for the manufacture of bays. But *Dunmow* I must particularly mention, on account of the famous old story of the flitch of bacon (given at *Little-Dunmow* in its neighbourhood) which is this :

One *Robert Fitzwalter*, a powerful baron in this county, in the time of *Henry III.* instituted a custom in the priory here, " That whatever married man did not repent of his being married, or differ and dispute with his wife, within a year and a day after his marriage, and would swear to the truth of it, kneeling upon two hard-pointed stones in the *Priory Churchyard*, set up for that purpose, in presence of the prior and convent, such person should have a flitch of bacon."

This has been actually claimed and received, at different times. The form of the oath taken by the new-married couple is as follows :

" You

“ You do swear, by custom of confession,
 That you never made nuptial transgression ;
 Nor, since you were married man and wife,
 By household brawls, or contentious strife,
 Or otherwise, in bed or board,
 Offended each other in deed or word ;
 Or, in a twelvemonth’s time, and a day,
 Repented not in thought any way ;
 Or, since the church clerk said Amen,
 Wish’d yourselves unmarry’d again ;
 But continue true, and in desire,
 As when you join’d hands in holy choir.”

The fitch of bacon being thus claimed by the married couple, the court then pronounces sentence for the same in these words :

“ Since to these conditions, without any fear,
 Both, of your own accord, do freely swear,
 A whole gamon of bacon you do receive,
 And bear it away with love and good leave :
 For this is the custom of *Dunmow* well known ;
 Tho’ the pleasure be ours, the bacon’s your own.”

This custom, however, is now suppress’d by Mr. *Crawley*, the lord of the manor, who, being perfectly satisfied, that it had been wrongfully claimed, and was always productive of idlenes and riotings, was warranted to do so by the nature of the original grant.

I shall now, in pursuance of my first design, proceed to the county of *Suffolk*.

From *Harwich* therefore, having a mind to view the harbour, I sent my horses round by *Maningtree*, a good, but dirty market-town, where is a timber-bridge over the *Stour*; or, as it is more usually called,

Maning-

Maningtree-water; and took a boat for *Ipswich* up the river *Orwel*, known by the name of *Ipswich-water*. The passage up this river is exceedingly beautiful, each side being adorned with elegant seats; lord *Shipbrooke's* (late lord *Orwell's*), and Mr. *Berner's* new house at *Woolverstone*, claim our attention.

In a creek in this river, called *Lavington-creek*, we saw at low-water such shoals of mussels, that great boats might be loaded with them, and the quantity scarce diminished to the eye.

Not far from *Maningtree* is *Mistley Hall*, the seat of the right honourable *Richard Rigby*, which possesses beauties that will reward the delay and attention of the traveller, especially when the river which flows by it is at high water.

Ipswich is seated at the distance of 12 miles from *Harwich*, upon the edge of the river, which taking a short turn to the west, the town forms there a kind of semi-circle, or half-moon, upon the bank of the river. It is very remarkable, that though ships of 500 tons may, upon a spring-tide, come up very near this town, and many ships of that burden have been built there, yet the river is scarce navigable above the town, not even for the smallest boats; nor does the tide, which rises sometimes 13 or 14 feet, and gives them 24 feet water very near the town, flow much farther up the river than the town.

Few places in *Britain* are qualified like *Ipswich* for carrying on the *Greenland* fishery; whether we respect the cheapness of building, and fitting out their ships and shallops; furnishing, victualling, and providing them with all kinds of stores; convenience for laying up the ships after the voyage; room for erecting their magazines, warehouses, ropewalks, cooperages, &c. on the easiest terms; and especially for the noisome cookery, which attends the boiling their blubber; which may be on this river, remote

from any place of resort; then the nearness to the market for the oil, when it is made; and, which above all ought to be regarded, the conveniency that arises from this consideration, that the same wind, which carries them from the mouth of the haven, is fair to the very seas of *Greenland*.

Ipswich was formerly much more considerable for trade than at present; particularly in the clothing branch; it is now principally employed in the corn and malting trades; and may be accounted a neat and well-built town, and much larger than many cities; carries on still a considerable maritime trade, there being three yards constantly employed in ship-building, and above 150 sail belonging to the port.

It has a very spacious market-place; and in the midst of it is a fine cross, in which is the corn-market. Adjoining are the shambles or butchery, very commodious, and vulgarly, but erroneously, supposed to have been built by cardinal *Wolsey*; for it owes its original to a much later date, *viz.* to the 40th year of queen *Elizabeth*. Behind this is the herb-market, and in a spacious street a little distant is a market for butter, poultry, and other country provisions, and another for fish, with which the town is served in great plenty. It has five market-days weekly; *Tuesday* and *Thursday* for butcher meat; *Wednesday* and *Friday* for fish; and *Saturday* for all sorts of provisions. It has also five annual fairs; one on *April 23*, one on *May 7* and *8*, one on *July 25*, one on the 11th and 12th of *August* for cattle also, and the fifth on *September 14* for lambs; and is also a very considerable one for butter and cheese, to which the whole country round resort, to furnish themselves with winter stores; as do also many of the *London* dealers in those commodities, who, however, are not suffered to buy till after the first three days of the fair.

Then

There are even now in this town 12 parish-churches, out of 14, which there once were; and two chapels in the corporation-liberty, out of several which have been demolished, besides meeting-houses, &c.

Here are also a fine town-hall, with a spacious council-chamber, and other commodious apartments; a shire-hall, where the county sessions are held for the division of *Ipswich*; a large public library, adjoining to a noble hospital founded by the town, called *Chriſt's Hospital*, for the maintenance of poor children, old persons, and maniacs; and in it rogues, vagabonds, and sturdy beggars, are kept to hard labour. Also adjoining to this is a good free-school; and there is likewise the noble foundation of Mr. *Henry Tooley*, anno 1556, for poor old men and women.

It is a town corporate, governed by two bailiffs, a recorder, 12 portmen, four of which, besides the bailiffs, are justices of the peace, two coroners, 24 common-councilmen, who are also high-constables, and 12 of them headboroughs, and 15 petty-constables. It sends two members to parliament.

Its privileges are extraordinary; for the bailiffs pass fines and recoveries, hear and determine causes, as well criminal as civil, arising in the town, and even crown causes, preferable to any of his majesty's courts at *Westminster*. They appoint the assize of bread, wine, beer, &c. No freeman can be obliged to serve on juries out of the town, or bear any offices for the king, without his own consent, sheriffs or the county excepted. Nor are they obliged to pay any tolls or duties in any other parts of the kingdom, having cast the city of *London* in a trial at law for duties demanded by the city for freemens ships in the river *Thames*. They are entitled to all waifs, estrays, &c. to all goods cast on shore within

their admiralty-jurisdiction, which extends on the coast of *Essex* beyond *Harwich*, and on both sides the *Suffolk* coast; and their bailiffs even hold their admiralty-court beyond *Landguard-fort*, &c. And by a solemn decision in their favour by an inquisition taken at *Ipswich* in the 14th of *Edward III.* they carried the point, which *Harwich* contested with them, of taking custom-duties for goods coming into *Harwich* haven, which was determined to belong solely to the bailiffs and burgesses of *Ipswich*.

I shall just mention, in this place, though it be generally known, that the famous cardinal *Wolsey*, archbishop of *York*, was born in this town, his father being a butcher in it; though, according to Dr. *Fiddes*, who published his life, he seems to have been a man of substance for those times.

The country round *Ipswich*, as are all the counties so near the coast, is chiefly applied to corn, of which a very great quantity is continually shipped off for *London*; and sometimes they load corn here for *Holland*, especially if the market abroad is encouraging.

There is a great deal of good company in this town; and though here are not so many of the gentry as at *Bury*, yet it has more than any other town in the county.

Thomas Fonnereau, Esquire, member of parliament for *Aldborough*, has a fine seat and park adjoining to this town; the house indeed is built in the ancient taste, but very commodious; it is called *Christ-church*, and was a priory, or religious house, in former times. The green and park are a great addition to the pleasantness of this town, the inhabitants being allowed to divert themselves there with walking, bowling, &c.

In this park are some of the most beautiful deer in the kingdom; they are of a fine white colour spotted with

with black, like harlequin dogs, with bald faces; these, intermixed with the fallow deer, make a fine variety in a park.

From *Ipswich* I went to *Hadley*, which has been a town corporate, but a quo warrant, being brought against their charter, in the reign of King James II. it has not been renewed since. Here are two weekly markets, and two annual fairs. It deals much in corn, and abounds with all manner of provisions. The town is large, and tolerably well built; but, being in a bottom, is generally dirty. Its church is a handsome building, graced with a spire-steeple and some curious painted windows, the gift of the present rector, Dr. *Tanner*; and, being near the middle of the town, is an ornament to it. It is of some note still for the manufacture of woollen cloths, but not of so much as it was formerly.

A little to the south-west lies *Neyland*, a large market-town in a bottom, upon the *Stour*, over which is a good bridge. It has a church, a charity-school, for 40 boys and 20 girls; and here too the bays trade is carried on.

Higher up to the north-west stands *Sudbury*, situate upon the same river, which is now made navigable for barges from *Maningtree* hither, and gives a great addition to their trade. It is a very ancient town, governed by a mayor, a recorder, seven aldermen, a town-clerk, a bailiff, twenty-four common-councilmen, and two serjeants at mace; and at present consists of three distinct parishes, which have each an handsome and large church; though one of them is rather a chapel of ease. It has an handsome bridge over the *Stour*, leading into *Essex*. This town was one of the first places at which king *Edward III.* placed the *Flemings*, whom he allured hither to teach the English the art of manufacturing their own wool, of which before they knew nothing; and here the

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Higher up to the north-west stands Sudbury, situate upon the same river, which is now made navigable for barges from Manningtree hither, and gives a great addition to their trade. It is a very ancient town, governed by a mayor, a recorder, seven aldermen, a town-clerk, a bailiff, twenty-four common-councilmen, and two serjeants at mace; and at present consists of three distinct parishes, which have each an handsome and large church; though one of them is rather a chapel of ease. It has an handsome bridge over the Stour, leading into Essex. This town was one of the first places at which king Edward III. placed the Flemings, whom he allured hither to teach the English the art of manufacturing their own wool, of which before they knew nothing; and here the

woollen trade hath continued ever since in a flourishing way. The inhabitants at present employ themselves in making says, perpetuanas, &c.

Near Sudbury is *Long Melford*, a pleasant village, and perhaps one of the largest in *England*, being about a mile in length. The church is a fine edifice, and stands at the north end of it. *Melford* has an annual fair, several good inns, many handsome houses, and creditable inhabitants; and here is the seat of the late Sir *Cordell Firebrace*, Bart. and that of Sir *Mordaunt Martin*, Bart. Here lived the unhappy Mr. *Drew*, who, in the year 1739, was barbarously murdered; and his son, *Charles Drew*, executed for it, who effected it either with his own hands, or by those of another person whom he procured to do it, by shooting him, for the sake of enjoying his estate. This parricide was attended with circumstances of great horror.

In my way from hence to *St. Edmund's-bury*, I passed due north through *Lavenham*, or *Lanham*, a pretty good town, standing upon a branch of the river *Breton*. It has a spacious market-place, which was formerly of much better account than at present. It had many years ago great advantage from its trade in blue cloths; but though this is lost, yet it has a good trade for serges, shalloons, says, &c. made here; spins a great deal of fine yarn for *London*, and has of late flourished much, by setting up an hall for selling wool, the town being conveniently situated for that purpose.

The church and tower here are justly accounted the finest in the county. The church was rebuilt in the time of *Henry VI.* and the tower, which is 137 feet high, with six large and excellent bells, ends blunt and plain; whence it is probable, that it was intended to be carried higher. It is situate on a hill on the west-side of the town.

East

East of *Lavenham*, and pretty near it, is *Bildeston*, a market-town, noted for the clothing trade, its good church, its mean buildings, and dirtiness.

Bury St. Edmunds is situate on the west side of the river *Bourn*, or *Lark*, which within these few years has been made navigable from *Worlington*, or *Mildenhall*, where the *Lark* falls into the *Ouse*. It is so regularly built, that almost all the streets cut one another at right angles. It stands on an easy ascent, and overlooks a fruitful inclosed country on the south and south-west; on the north and north-west, the most delightful champain fields, which extend themselves to *Lynn*, and that part of the *Norfolk* coast; and on the east the country is partly inclofed, and partly open. No wonder then that it is called the *Montpelier* of *Suffolk*, and even of *England*: and indeed a certain ancient author says no more than it deserves; "That the sun shines not upon a town more agreeable in its situation."

It is governed by an alderman, who is their chief magistrate, a recorder, 12 capital burgesses, and 24 common-councilmen, and sends two members to parliament.

It has two plentiful weekly markets on *Wednesdays* and *Saturdays*; and three annual fairs, one three days before and three days after the feast of *St. Matthew*; and it is generally protracted to a fortnight's length, for the diversion of the nobility and gentry that resort to it in great numbers.

The abbey, once so famous, was first built of wood by *Sigebert* king of the *East-Angles*, soon after christianity was planted here; and, when finished, (about the year 638,) that king retired into it, and shut himself from the world.

King Edmund, from whom the town takes its name, began to reign over the *East-Angles* anno 855, in the 14th year of his age, and reigned 15 years,

being killed anno 870, as supposed, at *Hoxne*, at 29 years old; and his corpse was 33 years after removed to *Bury*. The abbey was much enriched thereby, and the monks, who were of the *Benedictine* order, found means, about the year 1020, to get it intirely to themselves, excluding the seculars; and king *Canute*, in the 4th year of his reign, founded a more magnificent church, in honour of *St. Edmund*, which was finished in 12 years, and dedicated to *Christ, St. Mary, and St. Edmund*.

Uvius, prior of *Hulm*, who was consecrated the first abbot, anno 1020, got the abbey exempted from episcopal jurisdiction, and encompassed that and the town with a wall and ditch; the ruins of which, in several places, are still to be seen; and the abbots afterwards were made parliamentary barons. But in the reign of king *Henry VIII.* it ran the common fate of all religious houses.

When the abbey was in its prosperity, there was a chapel at every one of the five gates, and the town abounded with chapels and oratories. But at this time there are only two churches, which indeed are very beautiful and stately, and stand in the same church-yard; the one dedicated to *St. Mary*, the other, built in the reign of *Edward VI.* to *St. James*. The church of *St. Mary* has on the north-side of the altar (to which we approach by a fine ascent of six steps) the tomb of *Mary queen of France*, sister of *Henry VIII.* and wife of *Charles Brandon duke of Suffolk*. There are other handsome monuments in this church.

The other most remarkable public buildings are the abbey-gate, which is still a fine monument of what the abbey once was; the Guild-hall; the Wool-hall; the Shire-house; the Market-cross; and the Grammar-school, endowed by king *Eaward VI.*

As I made some stay at *Ipswich* and *Bury*, I made several excursions more inland than I had at first intended, and visited the following towns :

As, first, *Boxford*, which is about seven miles from *Sudbury*, and is a neat and well-built village, and carries on a considerable traffick. Queen *Elizabeth* founded here a grammar free-school.

At *Bures* on the *Stour* king *Edward* was crowned, and not at *Bury*. It has a good bridge on that river. Anno 1733, the spire of the steeple of the handsome church here was burnt by lightning, the bell frames destroyed, and the bells melted.

Clare is situate on the *Stour*, about 14 miles from *Bury*, and is but a poor town, and dirty, the streets being unpaved. But yet the civil and spiritual courts are held at it, and it has a good church; it shews still the ruins of a strong castle, and an old monastry. It has a manufacture of says; and gives title of marquis to his grace the duke of *Newcastle* of the *Pelham* family, as it did to that of *Holles* before.

Haverhill stands partly in *Essex*, and partly in *Suffolk*. By the ruins of a church and castle still to be seen here, it appears to have been of greater consequence formerly than at present. There is a charity-school here. Now I am at this place, I shall just mention

Lidgate, on account of its giving birth and name to the famous poet, orator, mathematician, and philosopher, *John Lidgate*, who died in 1440. Here are to be seen the ruins of a strong castle.

Stoke *juxta Neyland* has a fine church and steeple. *Gifford's-hall*, in this parish, is a noble old seat belonging to Sir *Francis Mannock*, Bart. and *Tendering-ball* was the seat of the late Sir *John Williams*, alderman of *London*, and now of lady *Rowley*, relict of Sir *William Rowley*, knight of the bath, and admiral of the fleet.

Stratford is a thoroughfare village of great traffick, and is employed in the woollen manufactures.

Eastbergholt, near four miles from *Stratford*, and half a mile north of the *Stour*, is a large and handsome village, employed in the woollen way, but not to so great a degree as formerly. It has a good church, but the steeple is in ruins, and the bells are rung by hand, in a kind of cage, set up in the church-yard. A little south of the church is an elegant house of *Joseph-Chaplin Hankey*, esquire, banker in *London*.

Needham is a thoroughfare town, about nine miles north-west from *Ipswich*. It is tolerably well built, has several considerable dealers in it, and formerly carried on a large trade in the woollen manufactures, which it has lost for some years.

Stow-market, about three miles from *Needham*, is a tolerable town, with a spacious church, and spire-steeple.

And five miles farther, being eight from *Bury*, is *Wulpit*, famous for the white bricks made there. It has an handsome church, with a mean spire; but the gothic church, with a room over it, is very beautiful.

Ixworth, about seven miles from *Bury*, is a dirty, ill-built town, with a mean market; but it is a thoroughfare town, and has two annual fairs.

Bosdale is a long mean-built thoroughfare town, yet it is remarkable for a grammar free-school, founded by Sir *Nicholas Bacon*, and established by queen *Elizabeth*. The master and usher are to be elected out of *Benet College, Cambridge*, where Sir *Nicholas* was educated. The master enjoys a salary of 20*l.* per annum, besides the benefit of the school-house; and the usher 8*l.* with a house and yard. The school-house was the gift of the late *Edmund Britiffe*, esquire. Sir *Nicholas* also bequeathed 20*l.* a year to the said college for six scholars out of this school, to whom likewise archbishop

bishop *Tenison* is said to have given six pounds annually. There is a mean market here every *Thursday*, and an annual fair on *Holy Thursday*.

Milden-hall, about 10 miles north-west from *Bury*, is situate on the river *Lark*; it is a town of very extensive limits, pleasant and well-built, and has a fine church, and lofty steeple. It has a plentiful *Friday* market, and a very considerable annual fair, which lasts four days. A little north of the church is the mansion-house of Sir *Thomas Hanmer*, Bart. who, in the reign of queen *Anne*, was speaker of the house of commons, and how of Sir *Thomas-Charles Bury*, Bart. In the year 1507, a great part of this town was consumed by fire.

Ickworth is the seat and noble park belonging to the earl of *Bristol*: it is upwards of ten miles in circumference, and for the beauty and value of its woods has scarcely its equal in the kingdom.

In the neighbourhood of *Bury St. Edmunds* also is *Rushbrook*, a fine place, formerly the seat of the noble family of *Jermyns* lord *Dover*, and now belonging to Sir *Charles Davers*, Bart. member in the present parliament for the last mentioned borough.

Cufford also, the ancient seat of lord *Cornwallis*, is not far distant, with several others, very agreeably situated and adorned with the beauties of art and nature.

Debenham, 12 miles north of *Ipswich*, is a tolerably clean, though mean-built town, and among very dirty and heavy roads, being seated on a hill. The church is a good building, the market-place tolerable, and there is a free-school, founded by appointment of Sir *Robert Hitchem*.

Mendlesham is a dirty and poor town, but has an handsome church, and a small *Tuesday's* market.

Eye is a town corporate, governed by two bailiffs, ten principal burgesses, and 24 common-council-

men; sends two members to parliament, and gives title of baron to earl *Cornwallis*. It is situate in a bottom between two rivers, is meanly built, and the streets dirty. Near the west-end of the church are still to be seen some of the ruinous walls of the castle.

From *Bury* I returned, by *Stow-market* and *Needham*, to *Ipswich*, that I might keep as near the coast as was proper to my designed circuit; having determined to take the opportunity of making two or three excursions to *Woodbridge*, *Aldborough*, and *Southwold*, to make my observations on that part of *Suffolk* which I have not yet touched upon. From *Ipswich* therefore I went to *Woodbridge*, and from thence to *Orford* on the sea-coast.

Woodbridge is a market-town, situated on the river *Deben*, about 11 miles from the sea. This river being navigable to the town for ships of considerable burden, it drives a pretty good trade with *Holland*, *Newcastle*, and *London*; and has passage-hoys, that go to and return from *London* weekly. It traded formerly in sack-cloth, and now in refining salt. It has a fine church with a steeple. The shire-hall is an handsome pile of building, where the quarter-sessions for this part of the county are held, and under it is the corn-crofs. One street in it, called *Stone-street*, is well-built and paved; but the rest are dirty. The market place is also well enough built; but the rest of the town is mean. The quays and warehouses are very commodious; and here is a grammar school, and an alms-house, erected in 1587, by *Thomas Seckford*, master of the requests, for thirteen men and three women, which is well endowed. It has a pretty good market on *Wednesday*, and two annual fairs.

Walton has been an ancient market-town; and, though the market is now disused, the cross is still remain-

remaining. In the neighbouring parish of *Felixstow*, on the cliff from the sea, and about a mile from the *Coln* side of *Woodbridge-haven*, are discerned the ruins of a quadrangular castle advantageously situated; of which nothing now remains but the foundation of one side of the wall. The rest has been devoured by the sea; and in all probability these remains must in a few years undergo the same fate. It was built principally of rock-stones; but the many *Roman* bricks still to be seen, and *Roman* coins which have been discovered among the ruins of the side walls, as they have been washed away by the sea in the present age, are an undeniably evidence, that it was a place of considerable antiquity, probably a *Roman* colony, which might give name to the hundred of *Colnies*, in which it stood.

Now begins that part, which is ordinarily called *High Suffolk*; which, being a rich soil, is for a long way wholly employed in dairies; and famous for the best butter, and perhaps the worst cheese, in *England*: the butter is barreled, and sometimes pickled up in small casks, in which it keeps so well, that I have known a firkin of *Suffolk* butter sent to the *West Indies*, and brought back to *England* again, perfectly good and sweet; but, for fresh-butter, no place has so good as *Cambridge*.

From hence turning down to the shore, we see *Orfordness*, a noted point of land for the guide of the colliers and coasters, and a good shelter for them to ride under, when a strong north east wind blows, and makes a foul shore on the coast. Here is a light-house.

Orford is situate on the north-west side of the river *Ore*, whence it had its name. It was formerly a town of good account, having a strong castle of reddish stone for its defence, of which, and of a *Benedictine* nunnery near the quay, are still to be seen

seen considerable ruins. The sea has so much withdrawn itself from this town, that it is robbed of its chief advantage, and deserves not the name of an harbour. The town is mean, and no one contends for an interest in it, but such as want to make themselves a merit in the choice of the two members it returns to parliament. It is a town corporate, and is governed by a mayor, 18 portmen, and 12 burgesses; it has also a mean *Monday* market, and an annual fair. It had the honour to give title of earl to the brave admiral *Russel*, which, after being many years extinct, was revived in the person of Sir *Robert Walpole*, whose grandson now enjoys it.

About three miles from *Orford* is *Aldborough*; a town pleasantly situated in a valley. It has two streets, each near a mile long; but its breadth, which was more considerable formerly, is not proportionable, and the sea has of late years swallowed up one whole street. The town, though meanly built, is clean, and well inhabited, chiefly by seafaring people. The sea washes the east-side of it, and the river *Ald* runs not far from the south-end of it, affording a good quay. In the adjacent seas, sprats, soals, and lobsters, are caught in abundance. The town trades to *Newcastle* for coals; and from hence corn is exported. The manor of *Aldborough*, as also the manors of *Scots* and *Tashards* in the neighbourhood, formerly belonged to the monastery of *Snape*, and were first granted, with that monastery, to cardinal *Wolsey*, and soon after to *Thomas* duke of *Norfolk*. *Aldborough* is pretty well situated for strength, and has several pieces of cannon for its defence. The church, which is a good edifice, stands on an hill a little west of the town. It is a town corporate, governed by two bailiffs, ten capital burgesses, and 24 inferior officers; and sends two members to parliament.

From

From *Aldborough*, I passed through *Saxmundham*, a little dirty market-town, to *Dunwich*, a very ancient town, which, by *Roman* coins dug up there, is supposed to have been a *Roman* station. In the reign of *William I.* it was so considerable a place, that it had 130 burgesses, and was valued to that king at 50*l.* and 60,000 herrings. We read, that in the reign of *Henry II.* it was a very famous village, well stored with riches, and fortified with a rampart, some remains of which still appear: it is governed by two bailiffs, and sends two members to parliament.

Before these times, in the reign of king *Sigebert*, anno 630, *Dunwich* was a bishop's see; and so continued till *William I.* made his chaplain bishop of it, and translated the see to *Thetford*, which was afterwards translated from thence to *Norwich*.

There were several religious houses in *Dunwich*, and some pretend no less than fifty churches; but there is a certain account of six parish churches, and three chapels, besides the several religious houses. Four of these parish churches, and the three chapels, have been long devoured by the sea; and one of the others met with the same fate in this age, so that there is only one now standing; and what remains of this once famous place, is but a pitiful parcel of sorry cottages, yet it sends two members to parliament.

From *Dunwich* we went to *Southwold*, pleasantly situated on an hill, and almost surrounded with the sea and the river *Blyth*, over which it has a bridge. It drives a considerable trade in salt and old beer, and in herrings, sprats, &c. The coast lies due north from *Orfordness* to *Southwold*; a bold shore, and safe anchoring all the way. A little to the south of the place last mentioned, the sea breaking in upon the shore makes a creek, which, when entered, spreading out, divides to *Dunwich*, *Southwold*, and *Walderswick*.

derswick. While the town of *Dunwich* retained any trade, she laboured incessantly (her very existence depending upon it) to distress *Southwold*; till, to end the dispute, the latter was incorporated by *Henry VII.* This town of *Southwold*, which, like *Dunwich*, stands on a cliff, at the coming in of the tide, is almost surrounded by the ocean.

Southwold is a member of the port of *Yarmouth*; and *Walberswick*, commonly written *Walderswick*, is a creek to *Southwold*. At present these places are but little regarded, but our posterity will, from experience, discover, that a navigable river and good harbour deserve to be purchased here, though at a considerable expence.

The bay before the town, anciently called from thence *Soul-bay*, now commonly, though corruptly, *Sole-bay*, was a frequent station of the royal navy during the *Dutch* wars, and is memorable for two famous sea-fights, the former, *June 3, 1665*, and the latter, *May 28, 1672*, both to the disadvantage of the *Dutch*.

This bay was formerly bounded by *Easton-ness*, so called, because supposed to be the most eastern point of this coast, and another cape to the south-east of *Dunwich*; but the sea having removed these marks, it may now be said to leave *Covehithe-ness*, with the *Burnet*, a sand lying before it, on the north, and *Thorp-ness* on the south, a very commodious road for ships, and justly famous for its fishery, particularly for soals, which, in point of size and flavour, are not inferior to any caught upon the coast of this island.

I had now the opportunity I hinted at, of making excursions into the main inland parts of *Suffolk*, adjacent to those towns, which I shall transcribe from my memorandum-book, in the order I set them down.

In

In the hundred of *Hartfner* stands *Brome*, a noble old mansion, which for many ages has been the seat of the noble family of *Cornwallis*, and gives the title of viscount to earl *Cornwallis*.

Wickham Market is situated about four miles from *Woodbridge*. The church is built on an hill, and, though the steeple be but 23 yards high, affords the best prospect of any in *Suffolk*; for, in a clear day, near 50 parish-churches may be seen from it. It is now only a village, but has some trade, and the civil and spiritual courts are held in it.

Snape was once noted for a famous monastery, few remains of which are now to be seen. It has a considerable annual fair for horses, which lasts four days, beginning *August 11*, to which the *London* jockies resort.

At *Easton* is the seat of the earl of *Rochford*.

Letheringham was of note for a little priory, which was obtained at the dissolution by Sir *Antony Wingfield*; who died without issue male. It was converted into a mansion-house, and is now the seat of the ancient family of the *Nauntons*. Sir *Roger Naunton* was in the reign of king *James I.* secretary of state, and master of the court of wards and liveries. He died *anno 1630*. In the abbey is a long gallery, adorned with several valuable pictures; and in *Letheringham* church are some elegant monuments of the *Wingfields* and *Nauntons*.

Rendelsham was anciently famous for being the royal residence of *Redwald* king of the *East Angles*. Hugh *Fitz Otho* procured a market and fair for this town from king *Edward I.* Digging here about 60 years ago, an ancient silver crown was found, weighing about 60 ounces, supposed to have belonged to *Redwald*, or some other king of the *East Angles*; which was sold, and melted down for the sake of the metal.

At *Butley*, two miles West of *Orford*, was a priory of canons regular; founded by *Ranulph de Glanville*, chief justice of *England*, to the honour of the Blessed Virgin. The ruins of the abbey, which are still to be seen, shew it to have been very large, and the gate-house is a magnificent building, it remains intire, and is embellished in the front with many coats of arms, finely cut in stone.

Framlingham, situate North-west of *Aldborough*, is a large town, well-built, and pleasantly seated near the head of the river *Ore*; it has a spacious market-place; the church is built of black flint, and is a very stately and noble edifice, wherein several of the *Mowbrays*, dukes of *Norfolk*, lie buried. The castle is a fine piece of antiquity, being a large, beautiful, and strong building, and contains within the walls now standing an acre, 1 rood, 11 perches, and was formerly much larger. Its walls are 44 feet high, very thick, and pretty intire; and it has 13 towers, 14 feet higher than the walls, two of which are watch-towers. It was both by art and nature formerly very strong. There are two good alms-houses, and a free-school, founded by Sir *Robert Hitcham* (who is interred in the church), for 40 poor boys, who are taught to read, write, and cast accompts; and 10*l.* is given to settle each of them apprentice. This gentleman bought of the duke of *Norfolk* the castle, manor, &c. and gave them to *Pembroke-hall*, in *Cambridge*, which has now a book of this noble family's housekeeping, like that of *Percy's*, published by Dr. *Percy*. To this castle queen *Mary I.* retired, when the lady *Jane* was proclaimed queen by the *Northumberland* faction.

Halesworth, North-east of *Framlingham*, is a large and good market-town, situate upon the river *Blyth*, which runs through it. The streets are clean, and partly paved. It has a very neat church, beautifully decorated

Decorated within; and is noted for linen-yarn, which is spun in the neighbourhood.

Blithburg, four miles East of Halesworth, was formerly a place of good note; but now has nothing to recommend it but its church, which is a fine old building, and kept in good repair.

Hoxne is the place where *Edmund*, king of the *East-Angles*, was murdered by the Pagan *Danes*, because he would not renounce his faith, in the year 870; and his body was removed to *Bury*, as mentioned before: In this parish is a fine seat belonging to Mr. *Maynard*.

Bungay is delightfully situated on the river *Waveney*, which, being navigable from *Yarmouth*, is a benefit to its trade. It is well-built, and consists of two distinct parishes, with two parish-churches answering to the largeness of the town, one of which is a sumptuous structure (wherein is erected a fine double organ); and its beautiful steeple (in which is a ring of eight bells) is an ornament to the town. Between these two churches are to be seen the ruins of a *Benedictine* nunnery. Here also remain the ruins of a very strong castle, supposed to have been built by the *Bigods* earls of *Norfolk*. Here is a market weekly on *Thursdays*, well served with all manner of provisions. There is also a large common belonging to the town, which is of great advantage to the inhabitants. This whole town (except one small street) was destroyed by fire *March 1, 1689*; the loss was computed at 29,896*l.* and upwards.

In this excursion I stretched to *Becles*, still farther North-east; a large market-town, situate on the *Waveney*. It has a fine church and steeple, and a plentiful market. The streets are well paved and clean, but the houses are but ordinary. The ruins of another church, called *Ingate* church, are to be seen,

seen here, which was formerly the parish-church to the town.

Burgh-castle, situate at the mouth of the *Waveney*, was a place of considerable note in the time of the *Romans*. The walls on the East, North, and South side, are still standing, pretty intire. The river being a defence on the West, no wall was wanting there.

I returned from these excursions to *Southwold*, in order to proceed on my journey, according to my first plan.

This town in particular, and so at all the towns on this coast, from *Orfordness* to *Yarmouth*, is the ordinary place where our summer friends the swallows first land, when they come to visit us; and here they may be said to begin their voyage, when they go back into warmer climates. I was some years before at this place, about the beginning of *October*; and, lodging in an house that looked in the church-yard, I observed in the evening an unusual multitude of swallows sitting on the leads of the church, and covering the tops of several houses round about. This led me to enquire what was the meaning of such a prodigious multitude of swallows sitting there? I was answered, that this was the season when the swallows, their food failing here, began to leave us, and return to the country, wherever it be, from whence they came; and that, this being the nearest land to the opposite coast, and the wind contrary, they were waiting for a gale, and might be said to be wind-bound.

This was more evident to me, when in the morning I found the wind had come about to the Northwest in the night, and there was not one swallow to be seen.

Certain it is, that the swallows neither come hither merely for warm weather, nor retire merely from cold;

told : they (like the shoals of fish in the sea) pursue their prey ; being a voracious creature, and feeding as they fly ; for their food is the insects, of which, in our summer evenings, in damp and moist places, the air is full ; and, when cold weather comes in, and kills the insects, then necessity compels the swallows to quit us, and follow their food to some other climate. It is a common saying, when the swallows fly low, that " we shall have rain." The reason is, the atmosphere at that time being heavy, as it always must be before rain, the insects cannot fly so high as in a lighter atmosphere ; and the swallows naturally follow their prey in whatever region they find them.

This passing and repassing of the swallows is observed no where so much as on this Eastern coast ; namely, from above *Harwich* to the East point of *Norfolk*, called *Wintertonness*, North, which is opposite to *Holland*.

This part of *England* is remarkable for being the first where the feeding and fattening of sheep and other cattle with turnips was practised, which is made a very great part of the improvement of their lands to this day ; and from whence the practice is spread over most of the East and South parts of *England*, to the great enriching of the farmers, and increase of fat cattle.

For the supplies of the markets of *London* with poultry, in which these countries particularly abound, they have within these few years found it practicable to make the geese travel on foot, and prodigious numbers are brought up to *London* in like droves from the farthest parts of *Norfolk*, even from the fen-country, about *Lynn*, *Downham*, *Wifbich*, and the *Wabes* ; as also from all the East-side of *Norfolk* and *Suffolk* ; and it is very frequent now to meet 1000 or 2000 in a drove. They begin to drive them generally

generally in *August*, when the harvest is almost over, that the geese may feed on the stubbles as they go. Thus they hold on to the end of *October*, when the roads begin to be too stiff and deep for their broad feet, and short legs, to march in.

Besides such methods of driving these creatures on foot, they have invented a new kind of carriage, being carts formed on purpose, with four stories of stages, to put the poultry in, one above another, whereby one cart will carry a very great number; and, for the smoother going, they drive with two horses abreast; thus quartering the road for the ease of the poultry, and changing horses, they travel night and day; so that they bring the fowls 70, 80, or 100 miles in two days and one night. The horses are fastened together by a piece of wood lying cross-wise upon their backs, by which they are kept even and together; and the driver sits on the top of the cart, as in the public carriages for the army, &c.

In this manner vast numbers of turkey-poults and chickens are carried to *London* every year, which yield a good price at market.

In this part, which we call *High-Suffolk*, there are not so many families of gentry or nobility, as in the other Side of the country: but it is observed, that, though their seats are not here, their estates are; and the pleasure of *West-Suffolk* is much of it supported by the wealth of *High-Suffolk*; for the richness of the lands, and application of the people to all kinds of improvement, are scarce credible. The farmers also are so considerable, and their farms and dairies so large, that it is frequent for a farmer to have 1000*l.* stock upon his farm in cows only.

From *Southwold*, coast-wise, I proceeded to *Leiston*, a considerable market-town, standing near the sea. It is indifferently well-built. The church, which is

situate

situate near a mile on the West-side of the town, is a good building; but, for the ease of its inhabitants, there is a chapel in the town, wherein divine service is sometimes celebrated. The *Ness* below the North-end of the town is the most Eastern point of land in *Britain*. Its principal trade is fishing for herrings and mackrel. It has a market weekly on *Wednesdays*; and two small fairs yearly; the one on the 1st day of *Moy*, and the other on the 29th of *September*. Besides the present chapel, here was formerly, at the South-end of the town, a chapel called *Goodcross-Chapel*, which hath been long since destroyed by the sea. This town, having been part of the ancient demesnes of the crown, hath a charter, and a town-seal; but the greatest privilege it now enjoys from its charter, is, that of its inhabitants not serving on juries, either at the sessions or assizes.

L E T T E R II.

Containing a Description of the Counties of NORFOLK and CAMBRIDGE, and that Part of ESSEX, not touched on in the former.

FROM *High-Suffolk*, I passed the *Waveney*, near *Schale-Inn*; and so came into *Norfolk*; and here we see a face of diligence spread over the whole country: the vast manufactures carried on chiefly by the *Norwich* weavers employ all the country round in spinning yarn for them; and also use many thousand packs of yarn, which they receive from *Dublin*, and the counties of *England* as far as *Yorkshire* and *Westmorland*.

This side of *Norfolk* is very populous, and filled with a great number of considerable market-towns; insomuch that between the borders of *Suffolk* and the city of *Norwich* on this side, which is not above 22 miles in breadth, are the following market-towns;

<i>Thetford,</i>	<i>Hingham,</i>	<i>Harleston,</i>
<i>Dis,</i>	<i>Attleborough,</i>	<i>East-Dereham,</i>
<i>Harling,</i>	<i>Windham,</i>	<i>Watton, &c.</i>
<i>Buckingham,</i>		

Most of these towns are very populous and large; but that which is most remarkable is, that the whole country round them is interspersed with villages so large, and so full of people, that they are equal to market-towns in other counties.

An eminent weaver of *Norwich* gave me a scheme of their trade on this occasion, by which, calculating

from the number of looms at that time employed in the city of *Norwich* only, he made it appear, that there were 120,000 people busied in the woollen and silk manufactures of that city only : not that the people all lived in the city, though *Norwich* is very large and populous ; but they were employed in spinning the yarn used for such goods as were all made in that city.

This shews the wonderful extent of the *Norwich* manufacture, or stuff-weaving trade, by which so many families are maintained.

This throng of villages continues through all the East part of the county, which is of the greatest extent, and where the manufacture is chiefly carried on. If any part of it be thin of inhabitants, it is the West part, drawing a line from about *Brandon*, South, to *Walsingham*, North. This part of the county, indeed, is full of open plains, and somewhat sandy and barren, but yet feeds great flocks of sheep.

NORWICH is the capital of the county, and the centre of all the trade and manufactures which have just mentioned ; an ancient, large, rich, and populous city.

There are in this city 32 parishes, and 36 churches, besides two meeting-houses of Quakers, one of Presbyterians, two of *Roman Catholics*, one of Independents, one of Anabaptists, and two of Methodists. The castle is ancient and decayed, and now for many years past made use of as the county gaol.

This city, it is said, was built by the *Saxons* out of the ruins of *Venta Icenorum*, now called *Caster*, where some years since were found several *Roman* urns. In the time of the *Saxons* it was the principal seat of the *East-Angles*, and was reduced to ashes by *Gren the Dane*. It was re-edified, and famine only compelled it to yield to *William the Conqueror*.

The famous rebellion of *Kett*, the tanner of *Windham*, in the reign of *Edward VI.* reduced it again to a ruinous state; but it was happily restored by queen *Elizabeth*, who sent hither part of the *Flemings* that came over from the cruel persecution of the duke of *Alva*; to whose industry and example is owing the rich manufacture of stuffs for which this city is so famous.

This city is surrounded by a wall, except on the East side, where the river *Wensum*, for upwards of half a mile, supplies its place. The city within the walls, and the boundary of the river, is reckoned three miles in circumference, taking in more ground than the city of *London* within the walls; but much of that ground lies open in pasture-fields and gardens; nor does it seem to be, like some ancient places, a decayed, declining town, the walls only marking out its ancient dimensions; for we have no cause to suppose, that it was ever larger or more populous than it is now. But the walls seem to be placed, as if it were expected that the city would in time increase sufficiently to fill them up with buildings. There are, 12 gates, which give entrance to the city.

Norwich is governed by a mayor, recorder, two sheriffs, steward, 24 aldermen, 60 common-council, with a town clerk, sword-bearer, &c. and sends two members to Parliament.

There are annually chosen eight wardens of the worsted-weavers, four out of the city, and four out of the adjacent country, who are sworn to take care that there be no fraud in the spinning, weaving, or dying the stuffs.

The cathedral is a fine fabrick, and the spire-steeple beautiful, and, next to *Salisbury*, and the copola of *St. Paul's*, the highest in *England*. The bishop's see was first at *Thetford*, from whence it was translated

translated hither in the 12th century; yet the church has so many antiquities in it, that our late great scholar and physician, Sir Thomas Brown, thought it worth his while to write a book, called *Repertorium*, &c. to collect the monuments and inscriptions in this church.

Here is a very fine market for corn, flesh, fish, and poultry; and what we have said of this last article in *Suffolk* may be truly applied to *Norfolk*; all which are generally sold at very reasonable rates, so that the woollen manufacturers can live as cheap here as in most parts of *England*. There is also a place called the *Madder-market*, from whence we may conclude, that *Madder* was formerly cultivated in this county, as it certainly was in many other parts of *England*. In short, the culture of this valuable dye was discontinued on account of the many disputes with the clergy about tithes, so that when the tithe of *Madder* was determined to be vicarial, it was totally neglected, and our neighbours the *Dutch* availed themselves of this, and have for many years past received between one and two hundred thousand pounds sterling from *England* annually for this dye; but the tithe is now settled by act of parliament, so that disputes can no longer retard its cultivation.

The river *Wensum* runs through this city, and is navigable for 30 miles without the help of locks or stops; and being increased by other waters, passes afterwards through a long tract of the richest meadows, and the largest, take them altogether, that are any where in *England*, lying for many miles in length, from this city to *Yarmouth*, including the return of the said meadows on the bank of the *Waveney*, South, and on the river *Thurn*, North.

There are five large bridges over the river running through the city, called *Coslany*, *Blackfriars*, *Fyebridge*, *White-friars*, and *Bishopsgate* bridges.

One thing is proper to be mentioned here, which history accounts not for. It is this; the river *Waveney* is a considerable river, and of a deep and full channel, navigable for large barges as high as *Becles* and *Bungay*; it runs for a course of about 50 miles, between the counties of *Suffolk* and *Norfolk*, as a boundary to both; and pushing forward, though with a gentle stream, no one would doubt, when they see the river growing broader and deeper, and going directly towards the sea, even to the edge of the beach, and within a mile of the main ocean, but that it would make its entrance into the sea at that place, and afford a noble harbour for ships at the mouth of it; when, on a sudden, the land rising high by the sea-side, crosses the head of the river, like a dam, checks the whole course of it, and it returns, bending its course west, for two miles, or thereabouts; and then turning North, through another long course of meadows (joining to those just now mentioned), seeks out the river *Wensum*, joins its water at *Burgh castle* with that, and both find their way to the sea together.

In this vast tract of meadows are fed a prodigious number of black cattle, which are said to produce the fattest beef, though not the largest, in *England*; and the quantity is so great, that they not only supply the city of *Norwich*, the town of *Yarmouth* and the country adjacent, but send great quantities of them weekly, in all the winter-season, to *London*.

And this in particular is worthy remark, that the gross of all the *Scots* cattle, which come yearly into *England*, are brought to a small village lying North of the city of *Norwich*, called *St. Faith's*, where the *Norfolk* graziers go and buy them.

These *Scots* runts, as they call them, coming out of the cold and barren mountains of the highlands in *Scotland*, feed so eagerly on the rich pasture in these marshes,

marshes, that they thrive in an unusual manner, and grow very fat ; and the beef is so delicious for taste, that the inhabitants prefer them to the *English* cattle, which are much larger and finer to look at. Some have told me, and I believe with truth, that there are above 40,000 of these *Scots* cattle fed in this county every year, and most of them in the marshes between *Norwich*, *Beccles*, and *Yarmouth*, in which they are fed till winter, when they are removed into the drier sandy land, where they constantly have large crops of turnips, on which they are fattened ; and their dung is so good manure to the land, that they always have a good crop of corn afterwards. Before the *graiers* made use of this manure, there were many estates in this county, where the land was lett under five shillings per acre, which have since been lett for twenty.

Great-Yarmouth (so called to distinguish it from a small village in its neighbourhood, denominated *Little-Yarmouth*) is an ancient town, much older than *Norwich*.

It is situated on a peninsula between the river *Wensum* and the sea ; the two last lying parallel to one another, and the town in the middle. The river lies on the West-side of the town, and being grown very large and deep, by receiving all the rivers on this side the county, forms the haven ; and the town facing to the West also, and open to the river, makes the finest quay in *England*, if not in *Europe*, at least equalling that of *Marseilles* itself.

The greatest defect of this beautiful town seems to be, that though it is very rich, and increasing in wealth and trade, and consequently in people, there is not room to enlarge it by new buildings ; being precluded on the West and South-sides by the river, and on the East side by the sea, so that there is no room but on the North-end without the gate ; and

there the land is not very agreeable; but had they had a larger space within the gates, there would before this time have been many spacious streets of buildings erected, as is done in some other thriving towns in *England*.

The number of vessels employed by this town in the fishery is 150, and between 40 and 50 sail in the exportation; which is made to *Genoa*, *Leghorn*, *Naples*, *Messina*, and *Venice*, as also to *Spain* and *Portugal*: and with them are likewise exported great quantities of worsted stuffs, and stuffs made of silk and worsted, camlets, &c. the manufactures of the neighbouring city of *Norwich*, and the places adjacent.

Besides this, they carry on a very considerable trade with *Holland*, exporting a vast quantity of the worsted manufactures every year. They have also a fishing-trade to the north seas for white-fish, which from the place are called the north-sea cod.

They have likewise a considerable trade to *Norway*, and to the *Baltic*, from whence they bring back deals, and fir-timber, oaken planks, baulks, barlings, spars, oars, pitch, tar, hemp, flax, canvas, and sail-cloth, with all manner of naval stores, for which they generally have a consumption in their own port.

Add to this the coal-trade between *Newcastle* and the river *Thames*, in which they are so improved of late years, that they have now a greater share of it than any other town in *England*; and have quite wrought the *Ipswich* men out of it, who had formerly the chief share of the colliery in their hands. The quantity imported, one year with another, is about 35,000 chaldrons.

For the carrying on of all these trades, they have a very great number of ships, either of their own, or employed by them.

The quantity of corn and malt exported from this town exceeds that of any port in *England*, *London* not excepted. Of late years, it has amounted to upwards of 220,000 quarters per annum.

Besides fishing-vessels above mentioned, the inhabitants of this town are owners of about 250 ships.

The haven was preserved, and the piers maintained, by contribution, till the time of king *Charles II.* And it ought to be mentioned to the honour of the public-spiritedness of their ancestors, that in queen *Elizabeth's* time the town, out of its corporation-estate, and public treasure, expended 31,000*l.* a very great sum in these days; but a much greater in those. In the reign of *Charles II.* an act passed, giving power to levy certain duties for the same good purposes, and these have been continued by subsequent acts.

To all this I must add, without compliment to the town, that the merchants, and even the generality of traders of *Yarmouth*, have a very good reputation in trade, as well abroad as at home, for fair and honourable dealing; and their seamen, as well masters as mariners, are justly esteemed among the ablest and most expert navigators in *England*.

This town, however populous and large, had till lately but one parish church, dedicated to *St. Nicholas*, though it is very large. It has an high spire, which appears crooked in whatever direction you view it, and is an useful sea-mark. It was built by that famous bishop of *Norwich*, *Herbert Lozinga*, who flourished in the reign of *William II.* and *Henry I.* *William of Malmesbury* calls him *Vir pecuniosus*, from the works of charity and munificence which he has left as witnesses of his immense riches; for he built the cathedral church, the priory for 60 monks, the bishop's palace, and the parish church of *St. Leonard*, all in *Norwich*; this great church at *Yarmouth*, the

church of *St. Margaret at Lynn*, and of *St. Mary at Elmham*. A new chapel, called *St. George's*, was built here in 1716.

Here is a fine market-place, and the streets are all exactly straight from north to south, the lanes or alleys, which they call *Rows*, crossing them in straight lines also from east to west; so that it is the most regular-built town in *England*, and seems as if it had been erected all at once, upon an uniform plan.

The corporation sends two members to parliament, and consists of a mayor, recorder, aldermen, chamberlain, 36 common-councilmen, and a town-clerk; and is a court of record, and of admiralty: in the first they try civil causes for unlimited sums; and in the other have a power to try, condemn, and execute, without waiting for a warrant from above. This power they exerted once, in executing a captain of one of the king's ships of war in the reign of king *Charles II.* for a murder committed in the street; the circumstance of which did indeed call for justice; but some thought they would not have ventured to exert it, as they did. However, I never heard, that the government resented it, or blamed them for it.

This town is bound by its charter, granted by *Henry III.* to send to the sheriff of *Norwich*, every year, a number of herrings baked in 24 pasties, which are to be delivered to the lord of the manor of *East Carlton*, who is to give a receipt for them, and then to carry them to the king.

It is a well governed town; and I have no where in *England* observed the *Sabbath-day* more strictly kept, or the breach of it so constantly punished, as in this place, which I mention to their honour.

Clay and *Blackney* are regarded jointly as a part of *Yarmouth*; *Clay* is looked upon as the principal place, though

though Blackney gives name to that creek which supplies them both with an harbour. They have between them 15 sail of small vessels, and it may be 60 fishing boats. It is thought they export 20,000 quarters of malt and hard corn, and carry at least as much coast-wise; they bring in about 6000 chaldrons of coals, and the remainder of their trade consists in deals, balks, fir-timber, pantiles, and iron.

From Yarmouth I resolved to pursue my first design; to wit, to view the sea-side on this coast, which is particularly noted for being one of the most dangerous and most fatal to sailors in all *Britain*; and the more so, because of the great number of ships, which are continually going and coming this way, in their passage between *London* and all the northern coasts of *Britain*.

The reason of which is, that the shore, from the mouth of the river *Thames* to *Yarmouth Road*, lies in a straight line from south south-east to north-north-west, the land being on the west or larboard-side. From *Wintertonness*, which is the utmost easterly point of land in the county of *Norfolk*, and about four miles beyond *Yarmouth*, the shore falls off for near 60 miles to the west, as far as *Lynn* and *Boston*, till the shore of *Lincolnshire* trends north again for about 60 miles more, as far as the *Humber*; whence the coast of *Yorkshire*, or *Holderness*, which is part of the East Riding, shoots out again into the sea, to the *Spurn*, and to *Flamborough-Head*, as far east almost as the shore of *Norfolk* had given back at *Winton*, making a very deep gulf, or bay, between those two points of *Winterton* and the *Spurn-Head*; so that the ships going north are obliged to stretch away to sea from *Wintertonness*; and leaving the sight of land in the deep bay that reaches to *Lynn*, and the shore of *Lincolnshire*, they go north, or still north north west, to meet the shore of *Holderness*,

which runs out into the sea again at the *Spurn*: this they leave also, and the first land they make is called, as above, *Flamborough Head*; so that *Wintertonness*, and *Flamborough-Head*, are the two extremes of this course. There is, indeed, the *Spurn-Head* between; but, as it lies too far in towards the *Hummer*, they keep out to the north, to avoid coming near it.

In like manner the ships which come from the North, leave the shore at *Flamborough-Head*; and stretch away south-south-east for *Yarmouth Roads*; and the first land they make is *Wintertonness*, as above. Now, the danger of the place is this: if the ships coming from the north are taken with an hard gale of wind from the south-east, or from any point between north-east and south-east, so that they cannot weather *Wintertonness*, they are thereby kept within that deep bay; and, if the wind blows hard, are often in danger of running on shore upon the rocks about *Cromer*, on the north-coast of *Norfolk*, or stranding upon the flat shore between *Cromer* and *Wells*. All the relief they have, is good ground-tackle to ride it out, which is very hard to do there, the sea coming very high upon them; or if they cannot ride it out, then to run into the bottom of the great bay, to *Lynn* or *Eoston*, which is a very difficult and desperate push: so that sometimes, in this distress, whole fleets have been lost here all together.

In the same danger are ships going northward; for if, after passing by *Winterton*, they are taken short with a north-east wind, and cannot put back into the roads, which very often happens, they are driven upon the same coast, and embayed just as the latter. The danger on the north-part of this bay is not the same, because if ships going or coming should be taken short on this side *Flamborough*, there is the

river *Humber* open to them, and several good roads to have recourse to; as *Burlington Bay*, *Grimsby Road*, the *Spurn Head*, and others where they ride under shelter.

The dangers of this place being thus considered, it is no wonder, that upon the shore beyond *Yarmouth* there are no less than four light-houses kept flaming every night, besides the lights at *Caster*, north of the town, and at *Goulstone*, south; all which are to direct sailors to keep a good offing, in case of bad weather, and to prevent their running into *Cromer Bay*, which the seamen call the *Devil's Throat*.

As I went by land from *Yarmouth* north-west, along the shore towards *Cromer*, and was not then fully master of the reason of these things, I was surprized to see, in all the way from *Winterton*, that the farmers and country-people had scarce a barn, shed, stable, or pales to their yards and gardens, or an hog-stye, or necessary-house, but what was built of old planks, beams, wales, timber, &c. the deplorable wrecks of ships, and ruins of mariners, and merchants fortunes; and in some places were whole yards filled, and piled up very high, with the same stuff, laid up for the like building purposes.

About the year 1692, a melancholy instance of what I have said happened: a fleet of 200 sail of light colliers went out of *Yarmouth Roads* with a fair wind, to pursue their voyage, and were taken short with a storm of wind at north-east. After they were passed *Wintertonness* a few leagues, some of them, whose masters made a better judgement of things, or who were not so far out as the rest, tacked and put back in time, and got safe into the *Roads*; but the rest, pushing on, in hopes to keep out to sea, and weather it, were by the violence of the storm driven back, when they were too far embayed to weather

Wintertonness, and so were forced to run west, all shifting for themselves as well as they could: some ran away for *Lynn-Deeps*, but few of them (the night being so dark) could find their way thither; some, but very few, rid it out, at a distance; the rest, being above 140 sail, were all driven on shore, and dashed to pieces, and very few of the people on board were saved. At the very same unhappy juncture, a fleet of loaden ships was coming from the north, and, being just crossing the same bay, were forcibly driven into it, not able to weather the *Nest*, and so were involved in the same ruin as the light fleet was; also some coasting vessels laden with corn from *Lynn* and *Wells*, and bound for *Holland*, were, with the same unhappy luck, just come out, to begin their voyage, and some of them lay at anchor: these also met with the same misfortune; so that, in the whole, above 200 sail of ships, and above 1000 people, were lost in the disaster of that one miserable night, very few escaping.

Cromer is a market-town close to the shore of this dangerous coast, and formerly had two parish churches, one of which, with many houses, was swallowed up by an inundation of the sea: I know nothing it is famous for (besides its being thus the terror of the sailors), except good lobsters, which are taken on that coast in great numbers, and carried to *Norwich*, and in such quantities sometimes too, as to be conveyed by sea to *London*.

Farther within the land, and between this place and *Norwich*, are several good market-towns, and a great many villages, all diligently applying to the woollen manufacture; and the country is exceeding fertile, as well in corn as pasture; particularly the pheasants were in such great plenty, as to be seen in the stubble like cocks and hens; a testimony (by the way) that the county had more tradesmen than gentlemen

tlemen in it. Indeed this part is so intirely given up to industry, that what with the seafaring-men on the one side, and the manufacturers on the other, we saw no idle hands here, but every man busy. Some of the principal of these towns are;

1. *Hickling* and *North-Walsham*, noted only for a market each.

2. *Aylsham*, a populous, and pleasant town, where a court is kept for the duchy of *Lancaster*, the manor having, by *Edward III.* been granted to *John of Gaunt*, duke of *Lancaster*.

At *Wolterton* lord *Walpole* has a seat, well environed with wood; and adjoining to *Wolterton* park is *Blickling*, the seat of the earl of *Buckinghamshire*. The park is large, and the water, in the form of a great winding river, is one of the finest in the kingdom. It is near a mile long, and in general from two to four or five hundred yards over: the colour is very bright; but what renders it uncommonly beautiful, is the noble accompaniment of wood. The hills rise from the edge in a various manner: in some places they are steep and bold, in others they hang in waving lawns, and so crowned and spread with wood, that the whole scene is environed with a dark shade, finely contrasting the brightness of the water. Some woods of majestic oaks and beech dip in the very water, while others gently retire from it, and only shade the distant hills. Sometimes they open in large breaks, and let in the view of others darker than themselves, or rise so boldly from the water's edge, as to exclude every other view. About the centre of the water, on the right of it, is a projecting hill, thickly covered with beech: their stems are free from leaves, but their heads unite and form so deep a gloom, that not a ray of the sun can find admittance, while it illuminates the water, on which you look both ways. This partial view of the lake

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(for the branches of the beech hang over the water, and form an horizon for the scene) is strikingly beautiful, and you dwell on it with uncommon pleasure. The house is unfortunately situated close upon one end of the water; but it is a large and good one.

3. *Worsted*, for the invention and twisting of yarn, so called; also famed for stockings and stuffs.

4. *Catton*, a hamlet to *Norwich*.

5. *Reepham*, for a good malt-market; having no church at all out of three; for there are only the ruins of one of them standing. The chief trade of this town is in malt, of which great quantities are sold in its market.

6. *Helt*, for giving two lord mayors of the name of *Gresham*, (who were brothers) to *London*, in 1537, and 1547.

7. *Fakenham*, one of the best market-towns in the county; and

8. *St. Faith's*, whither the drovers bring their black cattle to sell to the *Norfolk* graziers.

Not far from *Cromer* is *Gresham*, the birth-place of the generous founder of the *Royal Exchange* and *Gresham College, London*.

From *Cromer* we rode on the strand, or open shore, to *Weyburn Hope*, the shore so flat, that in some places the tide ebbs out near two miles. From *Weyburn* west lies *Clye*, where are large salt-works, and very good salt made, which is sold all over the country, and sometimes sent to *Holland*, and to the *Baltic*.

Wells, three leagues west by north of *Clay*, is a member of the port of *Lynn*, and much more considerable than any of the fore-mentioned places; its inhabitants having at present about 30 vessels, three of which are upwards of 100 tons; and besides these, at least a dozen of fishing-boats, employing in the whole not less than 200 men.

Holkham,

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Holkham, the seat, or rather palace of *Thomas Wenman Coke*, esquire, one of the representatives of the county of *Norfolk*, cannot be viewed with too much attention. The first objects, on entering it from the south, are a few small clumps of trees, which just catch your attention, and give you warning of *an approach*. They sketch out the way to a triumphal arch, under which the road runs. This structure is in a beautiful taste, and finished in an elegant manner: it is extremely light, and the white flint rustics have a fine effect. A narrow plantation on each side of a broad vista leads from hence to the obelisk, at the distance of a mile and a half. This plantation, I must here observe, ought to be much broader, for you see the light through many parts of it; but I apprehend it only a sketch of what was designed by the late earl of *Leicester*, who built this seat, and not meant as complete. At the bottom of the hill, on which the obelisk stands, are the two porters lodges, small, but very neat structures. Rising with the hill, you approach the obelisk, through a very fine plantation, and nothing can be attended with a better effect than the vista's opening at once. Of these there are eight: 1. To the south front of the house. 2. To *Holkham* church, on the top of a steep hill, covered with wood: a most beautiful object. 3. To the town of *Wells*, a parcel of scattered houses appearing in the wood. 4. To the triumphal arch. The rest direct the eye to distant plantations. Vistas are by no means the taste of the present age; but such a genius as the late lord *Leicester* might be allowed to deviate from *fashion* in favour of *beauty* and *propriety*. The house is elegant, and, for the most part, built of curious white brick.

Burnham-Overy, two leagues further west by south, is accounted a creek to *Wells*, and is a little growing place,

place, having six vessels belonging to it. But *Braen-caster*, which is very near, and is also a creek to *Wells*, is now, and was formerly, much superior to it. This, as the best and most accurate critics agree, was a *Roman* station, called by them *Brannodunum*, and was the head-quarters of the colonel of the *Dalmatian* horse, posted here under the command of the count of the *Saxon* shore for the protection of the country. All circumstances concur in the support of this opinion; the name signifies a camp or fortress, seated on a hill, overlooking the sea; there have been coins, urns, and other antiquities, frequently found in the neighbourhood; but what is most to be relied on, is the admirable situation of the place at the elbow, where the coast runs away south, and where the province was exposed to the depredations of pirates, dreaded in those days, though unheard-of in ours.

From the sea-coast we turned to the south west, through *Snettisham*, a small market-town, to *Castle-rising*, which yet sends two members to parliament; but shews a great many marks of *Roman*, *Saxon*, and *Danish* antiquities in and about it.

On the left we saw *Walsingham*, an ancient town, famous for the old ruins of a monastery there, and the shrine of our Lady, as noted as that of St. *Thomas Becket* at *Canterbury*; hence called, *Our Lady of Walsingham*. Two wells here are still called by the name of the *Blessed Virgin*.

Near this place, at *Raynham*, is the fine seat of the lord viscount *Townshend*, where is a most admirable picture of *Belisarius* in distress, by *Salvator Rosa*.

Not far distant is *Haughton*, the seat of the earl of *Orford*, containing the largest and finest collection of pictures in *England*. Many of the trees were planted by Sir *Robert Walpole* himself.

The

The extent of the building, including the colonnade and wings, which contain the offices, is 450 feet; the main body of the house extends 166 feet. The hall, which is finished in the inside with stone, is a cube of 40 feet; the salon 40 by 30 feet; and the other rooms are 18 feet high. The rustic and attic stories are 12 feet high each; under the rustic story are arched vaults. The whole building is of stone, and is crowned with an entablature of the Ionic order, and a balustrade above; and there is a cupola at each corner of the house with lanterns upon them.

The house, for the compass of ground it stands on, is reckoned as convenient, as finely ornamented, and as well furnished, as any house of its day, in the kingdom.

The whole tract of country from *Holkham* to *Houghton* was a wild sheep-walk, before the spirit of improvement animated the inhabitants of this county, which is become remarkable for the extent of its farms, the plenty of its produce, the knowledge of husbandry, and the riches of its farmers. The use of marl and the practice of inclosing has given a new appearance to the face and inhabitants of this flourishing part of the kingdom.

We proceeded hence to *Lynn*, another rich and populous port-town, well built, and well situated, upon the river *Ouse*; which has the greatest extent of inland navigation of any port in *England*, *London* excepted.

It was first called *Lynn Episcopi*, as the property of the bishop of *Norwich*, till the dissolution of monasteries by king *Henry VIII.* when that prince becoming its possessor, conferred on it the name of *Lynn Regis*.

It is situated upon the *Great Ouse*, about ten miles from the ocean, encompassed with a deep trench, walled

walled almost all round, containing about 2400 houses, and divided by four rivulets arched over with about 15 bridges. It extends along the east-side of the river; which in high spring-tides flows above 20 feet perpendicular, and is about the breadth of the *Thames* above bridge for the length of a mile, and is divided into nine wards. On the north-end, towards the sea, stands *St. Ann's Fort*, with a platform of 12 large guns, commanding all the ships which pass by the harbour; and towards the land, besides the wall, there are nine regular bastions, and a ditch, nearly in the form of a semi-circle, which make it above half a mile in breadth. The town is so ancient as to be supposed the same with *Maiden-Bourn*, according to several old historians.

The town-house, called *Trinity-ball*, is an ancient and noble building, which makes a fine appearance.

Adjoining to it is the house of correction, called *Bridewell*, with apartments proper for the reception of such as are put there, who beat and dress hemp during their confinement.

The *Market-croſs* is a new edifice of free-stone, in the modern taste, 70 feet high, erected on four steps, neatly adorned with statues, and other ornaments; with an inscription, giving an account of its former condition, and present re-building.

St. Nicholas's chapel is very ancient, and stands at the north end of the town. It is an appendage to *St. Margaret's*, and is esteemed one of the finest and largest religious fabrics in *England*; it has a bell-tower of free-stone, and a pyramidal octangular spire over it, both which together are 170 feet from the ground.

All-Saints church, in *South-Lynn*, belonging formerly to the *Carmelite* or *White Friars*, on the ruins of whose monastery it is built. Though not large,

it is neat, solid, and regular, in form of a cross, within a church-yard well walled in.

At a small distance from the town stands a ruinous pile, called *The Lady's Mount*, or *Red Mount*; wherein formerly was a chapel dedicated to the blessed Virgin, which served as a receptacle for pilgrims travelling this way towards the celebrated convent of *Our Lady at Walsingham*.

The library at *St. Nicholas* was erected by a voluntary subscription of several hundred pounds; to which the late lord viscount *Townshend* (who took his title of baron from this town) Sir *Robert Walspole*, Sir *Charles Turner*, and *Robert Britiffe*, esq; deceased, were considerable benefactors. There is also another library at *St. Margaret's*, to which the late *Thomas Thurlin*, D. D. president of *St. John's* college in *Cambridge*, bequeathed all his books; and also left an exhibition of six pounds a year to a poor scholar, who should go from the grammar-school to *St. John's* college in *Cambridge*; and forty shillings yearly towards the cloathing three of the poorest inhabitants of *Gaywood*, &c.

From *Lynn*, I bent my course southward to *Downham*, where is an ugly wooden bridge over the *Ouse*; at which, as *Hollingshed* informs us, in *October 1568*, were taken 17 monstrous fishes, from 20 to 27 feet long.

When we were at *Downham*, we took a turn to the ancient town of *Thetford*, situated partly in *Norfolk*, and partly in *Suffolk*. It was raised on the ruins of the ancient *Sitomagus*, which was destroyed by the *Danes*. It is at present but meanly built; but, by the ruins of churches and monasteries still remaining, appears to have been formerly of great account; and even so far back as the time of king *Edward the Confessor*, it had 947 burgesses, and in that of *William I.* 720 mansions. On the *Suffolk* side there

there now remain the ruins of six churches and monasteries, and there were several others in the town; but now there are but three parish churches standing intire, one on the *Suffolk*, and two on the *Norfolk* side. It is, however, a town corporate, governed by a mayor, aldermen, and common-council; has three annual fairs, and a plentiful weekly market. In the 7th year of king *James I.* an act passed for the founding of an hospital, a grammar school, and maintenance of a preacher in this town for ever, according to the last will of Sir *Richard Fulmerston*. Sir *Joseph Williamson*, secretary of state to king *Charles II.* built here a new council-house, and was otherwise a good benefactor to the place. There is a large mount here, called *Castle-hill*, thrown up to a great height, and fortified with a double rampart, which Sir *Henry Spelman* thinks was a *Danish* camp. The *Lent* assizes are usually held here; and the town sends two members to parliament.

From *Thetford* we crossed the *Ouse* to *Brandon* in *Suffolk*, which gives the title of an *English* duke to the duke of *Hamilton of Scotland*. This is no ill-built town, and has a good church belonging to it. It gave a lord mayor to *London*, anno 1445, to wit, Sir *Simon Eyre*, draper, who built *Leadenhall* for the use of the city, and left 5000 marks, a very great sum in those days, to charitable uses. *Brandon* has lost its market, but stands conveniently upon the *Ouse*, over which it has a bridge, and a ferry to convey goods to and from the isle of *Ely*, to which we directly bent our course, and entered *Cambridgeshire*.

We made an excursion from *Ely* northwards up to the *Fens*; but we saw nothing that way worth remarking, only deep roads, vast drains, and dykes of water, which are all navigable; though, with all

this

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this, a very rich soil, bearing a great quantity of hemp, but a bad unwholesome air.

Wibich, however, which lies on the northern extremity of the county, has not only been of note in the time of *William I.* who built a castle here, but is now a well-built market town, has a good town-hall, and is esteemed the best trading town in the isle of *Ely*, as having the convenience of good water-carriage to *London*, whither they send great quantities of rape or coal-seed, oil and butter, and bring back all sorts of commodities, with which the whole isle is furnished; for it has a plentiful market.

A good way lower down, to the south-west, are the market-towns of *Mersb* and *Thorney*; the first is very inconsiderable, the other is delightfully situated; and the land about it very fruitful in grafts and trees; and since the fens have been drained, it produces very good crops of corn. His grace the duke of *Bedford* has a good old seat at *Thorney*, which the late duke annually embellished by plantations of trees, &c. having an extensive estate of 19,000 acres of land in this level.

The *Isle of Ely* is encompassed with the *Ouse*, and other waters. The city is situated on a hill, in the middle of a great plain. The soil is exceeding rich, and the city is encompassed with gardens, the produce of which is so excellent, that it furnishes all the country for several miles round, even as far as *Cambridge* and *St. Ives*; the former of which has almost all its garden-stuff from hence. Great quantities of strawberries are cultivated here, particularly of the white wood sort.

Ely is observed to be the only city in *England* subordinate to the bishop in its civil government, and unrepresented in parliament. Here is a free-school and two charity-schools.

The

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The minster is a noble Gothic structure, and has been, within these few years, thoroughly repaired, and considerably beautified, by the munificence and public spirit of the dean and chapter, and the late bishop, Dr. *Matthias Mawson*; in particular, by removing the choir to the east end of the church*.

On the east side of the *Cam*, a little below *Ely*, stands *Sobam*, a little market town towards the borders of *Suffolk*, near the marshes, which were formerly dangerous to pass; but now there is a cause-way made, which leads very securely over them. Here are the remains of an ancient church, which was ruined by the *Danes*, and a charity school for near 100 children.

We proceeded hence to *Newmarket*. At *Chippingham*, near *Snailwell*, we saw a noble seat of admiral *Russell*, created earl of *Orford*, for the glorious victory obtained under his command over the *French* fleet, and the burning their ships at *La Hogue*, in 1692.

The situation of this house is low, and on the edge of the fen country; but the building is shewy, the apartments noble, and the gardens are large, but in the old taste. On the earl's death it devolved to *Samuel Sandys*, esquire, father of the present lord *Sandys*, in right of his wife, one of the earl's heirs; but is now alienated from that family, and belongs to *Crispe Molincux*, esquire, in right of his wife, daughter of *George Montgomery*, esquire. This gentleman has planted the verge of that part of his estate, which is on *Newmarket* heath, with five or six rows of trees.

Arriving at *Newmarket* in the month of *October*, I had the opportunity to see the horse races, and a great concourse of the nobility and gentry, as well from *London*, as from all parts of *England*.

* Vide Bentham's *Antiquities of Ely*.

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Newmarket is a handsome well-built town; and, being a thoroughfare, reaps no small advantage by that means, as well as from the races. It consists chiefly of one long street, the north side of which is in *Suffolk*, and the south in *Cambridgeshire*. The town has two churches belonging to it, and a free-school endowed by king *Charles II.*

I went in the intervals of the sport to see the fine seats of the gentlemen in the neighbouring county; for this part of *Suffolk*, being an open champain country, and in an healthy air, is formed for pleasure, and all kinds of rural diversion; and the country is accordingly in a manner covered with fine seats of the nobility and gentry.

Euston-hall, the seat of the duke of *Grafton*, lies in the open country towards the side of *Norfolk*, not far from *Thetford*, a place delightful in nature, and greatly improved by art.

From thence I went to *Rushbrook*, formerly the seat of the noble family of *Jermyns*, lord *Dover*, and now of the house of sir *Charles Davers*, baronet. Then we saw *Brently*, the seat of the earl of *Dyser*, and *Culford*, the ancient house of lord *Cornwallis*. *John Symonds*, esquire, has built a beautiful house about a mile and a half from *Bury*; and sir *Charles Bunbury* has greatly improved his seat at *Barton*, by the addition of a very large and fine room.

We entered *Cambridgeshire* out of *Suffolk* with all the advantage that can be imagined; just upon those pleasant and agreeable plains, called *Newmarket-heath*. Across which extends a fortification, or ditch, with rampart, commonly called *The Devil's Dyke*, but best known by the name of *Rech Dyke*, from *Rech*, small market town lying near the heath. It is supposed to have been the boundary of the kingdom of the *East Angles*.

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Passing this ditch, we see from the hills called *Gogmagog*, or rather *Hogmogog*, a rich and pleasant vale westward, covered with corn-fields, gentlemens seats, villages; and at a distance, to crown all the rest, that ancient and truly noble university and town of *Cambridge*, capital of the county.

Cambridgeshire, except the fen part, is almost wholly a corn-country; and of that corn, five parts in six of all they sow is barley, which is generally sold to *Ware* and *Royton*, and other great malting-towns in *Hertfordshire*, and is the fund from whence that vast quantity of malt, called *Hertfordshire* malt, is made, and which is esteemed the best in *England*.

On the top of *Hogmogog-hills* appears an ancient camp, or fortification, with a rampart and ditch, which most of our writers say was neither *Roman* nor *Saxon*, but *British*. King *James II.* caused a spacious stable to be built in the area of this camp, for his running-horses, and made old Mr. *Frampton* master or inspector of them. The late earl *Godolphin* had here a fine house on the very summit of the hill, to which his lordship frequently resorted, especially in the racing season.

As we descended westward, we saw the fen-country on our right, almost all covered with water, like a sea. The *Michaelmas* rains, having been very great that year, sent down vast floods of water from the upland counties; and those fens being the sink of no less than 12 counties, they are often thus overflowed. The rivers which thus empty themselves into these fens, and carry off the water, are the *Cam* or *Grant*, the *Great Ouse* and *Little Ouse*, the *Nene*, the *Welland*, and the river which runs from *Bury* to *Mildenhall*: The counties which these rivers drain as above, are those of

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<i>Lincoln,</i>	<i>Warwick,</i>	<i>Rutland,</i>
* <i>Cambridge,</i>	<i>Oxford,</i>	<i>Norfolk,</i>
* <i>Huntingdon,</i>	<i>Leicester,</i>	<i>Suffolk, and</i>
* <i>Bedford,</i>	* <i>Northampton,</i>	<i>Esex.</i>

In a word, all the water of the middle part of *England*, which does not run into the *Thames*, or the *Trent*, comes down into these fens.

In these fens are abundance of those admirable pieces of art called *decoys*, or rather *duckoys*; and it is incredible what quantities of wild-fowl of all sorts, duck, mallard, teal, wigeon, &c. they take in them every week during the season: it may indeed be guessed at in some measure by this, that there is a *duckoy* not far from *Ely*, which yields the landlord 500*l.* a year clear of the charge of maintaining a great number of servants for the management; from whence alone they assured me at *St. Ives* (a town on the *Ouse*, whither the fowls are always brought to be conveyed to *London*), that they generally sent up 3000 couples a week.

There are more of these about *Peterborough*, from whence waggon loads are sent up twice a week to *London*. I have seen these waggons, before the act of parliament to regulate carriers, drawn by ten or twelve horses each, so heavy were they loaden.

As these fens appear overwhelmed with water, I observed, that they generally at the latter part of the year appear also covered with fogs; so that, when the downs and higher grounds of the adjacent country glittered with the beams of the sun, the *Isle of Ely* seemed wrapped up in mist and darkness, and nothing could be discerned, but now-and then the cupola of *Ely* minster.

One could hardly see this from the hills, without concern for the many thousand families confined to

* Those marked with (*) empty all their waters this way, the rest
in part.

those fogs, who had no other breath to draw, than what must be mixed with the choaking vapours, which spread over all the country; but, notwithstanding this, the people, especially those that are used to it, live as healthy as those in a clearer air, except now-and-then an ague, which they make light of; and there are great numbers of very ancient people among them. An act passed a few years ago, for the more effectual draining and preservation of *Haddenham Level* in the *Isle of Ely*, which contains 6500 acres, and which were chiefly overflowed through the neglect of preserving and clearing the out-falls into the sea; but as these grounds are naturally very rich and fertile, it may be imagined, what a benefit must accrue to the public by this means, when the draining and recovery of them can be completed.

In the neighbourhood of *Cambridge* is held *Stourbridge Fair*, so called from a bridge over the brook *Stour*, which runs by the old *Paper Mills* into the river *Grant*. This fair was formerly by much the most considerable in *England*. Its staple commodities are wool, hops, leather, cheese, and iron; woollen-drapers and mercers, and many other trades, formerly resorted here from *London*, and formed different sorts of shops; but the number of these is now decreased: however, the trade of the above staple commodities is still very considerable. No coaches come from *London*, as formerly, to ply at this fair, the town furnishing great numbers themselves, which are perpetually hurrying from *Cambridge* to the fair, and back again, while it lasts. This fair is laid out, since the alteration of the style, on the 4th of *September*, by the mayor and aldermen of the corporation, when people begin to build their booths; and on the 18th of *September*, annually, it is proclaimed, with great solemnity, by the vice-chancellor, doctors, and proctors of the university, and by the mayor and aldermen

aldermen of the town, each body in their scarlet robes. Then the fair begins, and continues a fortnight; during which time it formerly was crowded with people, who came from distant as well as the neighbouring counties; and the town of *Cambridge*, and the neighbouring villages, were so full of people, that they could scarce find room for them or their horses; but the numbers are now much less. The entertainment people meet with here, consists chiefly of oysters, herrings, and stubble-geese. There used to be plays acted every evening, and music booths during the fair; but the university not approving of these diversions, they are now discontinued.

The two universities of *Cambridge* and *Oxford* are so much the glory of this nation, that it would be an almost unpardonable defect in such a work as this, not to take particular notice of them. I shall refer that of *Oxford* to its proper place; and here give as brief an account as I can of this of *Cambridge*, and of the originals and founders of the several colleges, together with the favours and advantages that have been within these few years conferred upon it by his late majesty, and other benefactors.

The town is governed by a mayor, high-steward, recorder, 13 aldermen, 24 common-councilmen, a town-clerk, and other officers; but with regard to the government of the university, that has a chancellor eligible every three years, *aut manere in eodem officio durante tacito consensu senatus Cantabr.* The present chancellor is his grace the duke of *Grafton*. He hath under him a Commissary, who holds a court of record of civil causes for all privileged persons and scholars, under the degree of master of arts.

They have also an high steward, chosen by the senate, and holding by patent from the university. The present high-steward is the earl of *Hardwicke*.

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The vice-chancellor is annually chosen on the 4th of November, by the body of the university, out of two persons nominated by the heads of the colleges.

Two proctors are also annually chosen, as at Oxford; as also are two taxers, who, with the proctors, have cognizance of weights and measures, as clerks of the market.

The university has a Custos Archivorum, or register; three Esquire Beadles, one Yeomen Beadle, and two Library keepers.

The proctors visit the taverns, and other public-houses, and have power to punish offending scholars, and to fine the public-houses who entertain them.

As to the antiquity of the university of Cambridge, the story goes, that *Cantaber*, a Spaniard, 270 years before Christ, first founded it; and that *Sebert*, king of the East Angles, restored it, Anno Christi 630. Afterwards, as the learned *Camden* observes, it lay a long time neglected, and was overthrown by the Danish storms, till all things revived under the Norman government. Soon after inns, hotels, and halls, were built for students, though without endowments.

I shall now give a brief account of the colleges; and begin with,

I. PETER-HOUSE,

Which was founded by *Hugh Balsham*, bishop of *Ely*, anno 1257, when only prior of *Ely*. But at first the scholars had no other conveniences than chambers, which exempted them from the high rates imposed on them by the townsmen for lodgings. The endowment was settled by the same *Hugh*, when bishop, anno 1284, for a master, 14 fellows, &c. Which number might be increased or diminished according

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according to the improvement or diminution of their revenues.

2. CLARE-HALL

Was founded in the Year 1340, by *Richard Badew*, chancellor of the university, and, in the year 1347, was rebuilt by lady *Elizabeth Burgb*, third sister and coheiress of *Gilbert*, earl of *Clare*, wife of *John de Bugh*, lord of *Connaught* in *Ireland*. Dr. *Badew* had before built an house called *University Hall*, wherein the scholars lived upon their own expence for 16 years, till it was accidentally destroyed by fire. The founder, finding the charge of rebuilding would exceed his abilities, had the kind assistance of the said lady, through whose liberality it was not only rebuilt, but endowed for the maintenance of one master, ten fellows, and ten scholars, and she gave it the name of *Clare Hall*. This college consists of one grand court, all of free-stone, of the *Tuscan* and *Ionic* orders, adorned with pilasters, and two noble porticos; it is one of the neatest and most uniform houses in the university, and is delightfully situated, the river *Cam* running by the garden and walks. It has lately had a beautiful chapel added to it, which cost 7000*l.*.

3. PEMBROKE-HALL

Was founded in the year 1343, by the lady *Mary St. Paul*, countess of *Pembroke*, third wife to *Audomare de Valentia*, earl of *Pembroke*; who, after his death, intirely sequestered herself from all worldly delights, and, among other pious acts, built this college, which has been since much augmented by the benefactions of others. The chapel, built by Sir *Christopher Wren*, is one of the most elegant and best proportioned chapels in the university.

4. ST. BENET'S, OR CORPUS-CHRISTI
COLLEGE,

Was founded by the society of Friars of *Corpus Christi*, in the year 1350. This rose out of two guilds or fraternities, one of *Corpus Christi*, and the other of the *Blessed Virgin*, which after a long emulation, being united into one body, by a joint interest built this college, which took its name from the adjoining church of *St. Benedict*. Their greatest benefactor was Dr. *Matthew Parker*, once master of the college, and afterwards archbishop of *Canterbury*, who, by his prudent management, recovered several rights of the college; and, besides two fellowships and 14 scholarships, and the advowson of the living of *St. Mary Abchurch*, in *London*, gave a great number of excellent MSS. to their library, which were mostly collected out of the remains of the old abbey-libraries, colleges, and cathedrals, and chiefly relate to the history of *England*. This college, being now in a ruinous condition, is intended soon to be rebuilt, by the benefactions of Dr. *Mawson*, the late bishop of *Ely*, &c. the plan being already engraven.

5. TRINITY-HALL

Was founded in the year 1351, by *William Battman*, bishop of *Norwich*. It was built upon a place which once belonged to the Monks of *Ely*, and was an house for students befor the time of bishop *Battman*, who, by exchange for the advowsons of certain rectories, got it into his own possession. He was a great master of civil and canon law; whereupon the master, two fellows, and three scholars (the number appointed by him at the first foundation), were obliged to follow those two studies. It has been since much augmented by benefactors, and has been
all

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all new cased with stone; and a large benefaction is expected soon to fall in, which will enable the society to extend two wings down to the river.

6. GONVILLE and CAIUS COLLEGE.

Anno 1348, *Edward Gonvile* founded an hall, called after his name, upon the place where now are the orchard and tennis-court of *Benet-College*; but, within five years after it was removed into the place where it now stands, by bishop *Bateman*, founder of *Trinity-hall*. Anno 1557, *John Caius*, doctor of physic, improved this hall into a new college, since chiefly called by his name; and it has of late years received considerable embellishments, &c.

7. KING'S COLLEGE

Was founded in the year 1441, by king *Henry VI.* It was at first but small, being built by that prince for a rector and 12 scholars only. Near it was a little hotel for grammarians, built by *William Bingham*, which was granted by the founder to king *Henry*, for the inlargement of his college. Whereupon he united these two, and, having enlarged them, by adding the church of *St. John Zachary*, founded a college for a provost, 70 fellows and scholars, three chaplains, &c. The chapel belonging to this college is deservedly reckoned one of the finest Gothic buildings now remaining in *Europe*. It is 304 feet long; its breadth, including the cells or burial-places on each side, is 73 feet without, and 40 within; its height to the battlements is 91 feet; it has not one pillar in it, though it has two roofs, the first of stone, and the other of timber covered with lead. It has 12 large windows on each side, finely painted; and the carving, and other workmanship, of the stalls is truly elegant. It is remarkable, that the walls of the anti-chapel are

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much more ornamented than those of the choir or chapel. The east end, under the fine painted window, has been lately fitted up with great taste in the Gothic style, at the expence of 1500*l.* from designs of Mr. James Essex, architect, of Cambridge. It constitutes one side of a large square; for the royal founder designed, that the college should be a quadrangle, all of equal beauty; but the civil wars, in which he was involved, with the house of York, prevented his accomplishing it; and the prosecution of his good design was reserved to our own time. What has been added within these few years past is not only an ornament to the college, but to the whole university. The new building, which is of *Portland* stone, runs from the west-end of the chapel, a little detached from it, to the southward, makes another side of the square, and contains spacious chambers and apartments, being 236 feet in length, fifty six in breadth, and near 50 feet high.

February, 1734, the workmen, digging for the foundation of the new buildings of this college, found a great number of broad pieces of gold, of the coin of king Henry V. exceeding fair. As soon as it was known, the governors of the college got out of the workmens hands a considerable number, which they made presents of to their particular benefactors, and divided among themselves, and the fellows of the college; but it is supposed, that the workmen secreted many; for this coin was very scarce before, but after this was much easier to be met with.

8. QUEEN'S COLLEGE

Was founded by queen *Margaret of Anjou*, wife of king *Henry VI.* in the year 1448, but the troublesome times that followed would not give her leave to complete the fabric. The first master of it, *Andrew Ducket*,

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Ducket, procured great sums of money from well-disposed persons, towards finishing this work; and so far prevailed with queen *Elizabeth*, wife of king *Edward IV.* that she perfected what her professed enemy had begun. The reverend Mr. *Ferdinanda Smythes*, senior fellow of *Queen's College*, who died in November 1725, gave 1500*l.* to the same, to be appropriated to the use of three bachelors of art, till the time of their taking their masters degree. This college is much improved by a large new building, according to which the front towards the river is intended to be completed.

9. CATHARINE-HALL

Was founded in the year 1459, by Dr. *Robert Woodlark*, third provost of *King's College*; and the hall was built over against the *Carmelites* house, for one master and three fellows. The numbers have been since greatly increased, as well as the revenues, by a late considerable benefaction, and a new building is added, at the east-end of the master's lodge, and the whole is parted from the street by an handsome brick-wall, with stone columns and iron gates. Dr. *Thomas Sherlock*, late bishop of *London*, gave, in his life-time, 650*l.* for fitting up an handsome room, as well for the reception of the college library, as of his own books, which were placed therein after his decease. He likewise gave the iron palisades, at the back of the college.

10. JESUS COLLEGE

Was founded anno 1497, by *John Alcock*, bishop of *Ely*, out of an old *Benedictine* nunnery dedicated to *St. Radegund*, given him by king *Henry VII.* and pope *Julius II.* on account of the scandalous incontinence of the nuns, in order to be by him converted

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to this use. And this prelate established in it a master, six fellows, and six scholars ; but their numbers have been much increased by after-benefactions.

II. CHRIST'S COLLEGE

Was founded by the lady *Margaret*, countess of *Richmond* and *Derby*, mother of king *Henry VII.* anno 1506, upon the place where *God's House* formerly stood. She settled there a master and 12 fellows, &c. which number in king *Edward VI.*'s time being complained of as favouring of superstition, by alluding to our Saviour and his 12 Disciples, that prince added a 13th fellowship, with some new scholarships. This college has been, within these few years past, adorned with a very fine new building, and the whole court cased with stone, and fashed on the inside.

12. ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE

Was founded in the year 1509, by the same lady, upon the place where, anno 1134, *Nigel* or *Neal*, second bishop of *Ely*, founded an hospital for canons regular ; which, by *Hugh de Balsham*, was converted into a priory dedicated to *St. John*, and, by the executors of the said countess of *Richmond*, into a college, under the name of the same saint. For she died before it was finished, which retarded the work for some time ; but it was afterwards carried on by her executors ; and in the beginning of the reign of king *James I.* was greatly enlarged with fine new buildings. This college, pleasantly situated by the river, is no less remarkable for its number of students, and its beautiful groves and gardens, than for its strict and regular discipline. It has a noble library, which has been of late years greatly augmented by the accession of the library of Dr.

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Gunning, bishop of *Ely*, and of that of *Matthew Prior*, esq. who continued fellow of this Society till the day of his death, or nearly so. One side of the first court, opposite to the chapel, has been lately in a manner rebuilt, and the rooms all new laid out, fashed, and faced with stone.

13. MAGDALEN COLLEGE

Was founded anno 1542, by *Thomas Audley*, lord chancellor of *England*, and was afterwards enlarged and endowed by *Sir Christopher Day*, lord chief justice of *England*. This college stands by itself on the north-west side of the river, and hath been of late years improved and adorned by an handsome piece of building. A fellowship of a considerable value has been lately founded at this college, which is appropriated to gentlemen of the county of *Norfolk*, and called *The Traveling Norfolk Fellowship*.

To the library of this college were left a collection of books and MSS. by *Samuel Pepys*, esq; as also great numbers of papers relating to the navy and admiralty. The benefactor bequeathed the presses, as well as the books and papers; and they are kept in the manner he left them.

14. TRINITY COLLEGE

Was founded anno 1546, by king *Henry VIII*. out of three others, *St. Michael's* college built by *Hervie of Stratton* in the time of *Edward II*. *King's Hall*, founded by *Edward III*. and *Fenwick's Hotel*. Its worthy master *T. Nevil*, dean of *Canterbury*, repaired, or rather new-built, this college, with that splendor and magnificence, that, for spaciousness and the beauty and uniformity of its buildings, it is hardly to be outdone. All which have been since still further improved by a most noble and stately library, pre-

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sented by the famous Dr. Isaac Barrow; and built by Sir Christopher Wren at 20,000*l.* expence: a building, for the bigness and design of it (says a right reverend prelate) perhaps not to be matched in these kingdoms. This college is likewise rendered famous on account of several great men it has educated, as the lord Bacon, Sir Isaac Newton, Mr. Cowley, Dr. Barrow, Mr. Dryden, Mr. Ray, Dr. Bentley, and Dr. Smith, its late learned master. July 4, 1755, was erected in the anti-chapel, by Dr. Smith, that noble marble statue of Sir Isaac Newton, which is allowed, by the best judges, to be a complete master-piece of the celebrated Mr. Roubiliac, and is thus described by an ingenious modern poet:

*Hark! where the organ, full and clear,
With loud hosannas charm the ear,
Behold (a prism within his hands)
Absorb'd in thought great Newton stands!
Such was his brow, and look serene,
His serious gait, and musing mien;
When, taught on eagle wings to fly,
He trac'd the wonders of the sky;
The chambers of the sun explor'd,
Where tints of thousand hues were stor'd.*

15. EMANUEL COLLEGE

Was founded anno 1584, by Sir William Mildmay, chancellor of the exchequer to queen Elizabeth, in a place where was formerly a convent of Dominicans, founded in the year 1280, by the lady Alice, countess of Oxford. After the suppression of monasteries it came into the possession of Mr. Sherwood, of whom Sir Walter seems to have bought it. It has a very neat chapel, built by the bounty of Dr. William Sancroft, archbishop of Canterbury, and others. And the library belonging to it received a fine addition

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by the valuable collection of books of the same archbishop, given to it on the decease of that prelate. This building has been very much improved by a fine and extensive front to the street, of regular architecture.

16. SIDNEY-SUSSEX COLLEGE

Was founded in 1598, by virtue of the will of the lady *Frances Radcliff*, countess dowager of *Sussex*, who died anno 1589, and by her will left 5000*l.* for the founding of a college, to be called *Sidney-Sussex*. It was erected on the place where formerly the monastery of *Grey-Friers*, built by king *Edward I.* had flourished. But though this college owes its rise to the bequest of this lady, and the care of her executors, it is exceedingly improved by the benefactions of Sir *Francis Clerk*, who, besides erecting the buildings in the second court, augmented the scholarships, and founded four fellowships more; and moreover Sir *John Brereton* left to it above 2000*l.* It has been greatly improved, partly in its hall, in the time of its late master, and a handsome chapel is now building.

These are the sixteen colleges or halls in this university.

The schools of this university were at first in private houses, hired from ten years to ten years for that purpose by the university; in which time they might not be put to any other use. Afterwards public schools were built at the charge of the university, in or near the place where they now stand: but the present fabric, as it is now built of brick and rough stone, was erected partly at the expence of the university, and partly by the contributions of several benefactors.

The whole number of fellows in the university is 406, and of scholars 666; besides which there are

236 inferior officers and servants of various kinds, who are maintained upon the foundation. These, however, are not all the students of the university; there are two sorts of students, called pensioners, the greater and the less: the greater pensioners are, in general, the young nobility, and are called fellow-commoners, because, though they are scholars, they dine with the fellows; the less are dined with the scholars; but both live at their own expence. The nobility, which includes baronets, are called and rank as noblemen; and as such are intitled to degrees, without waiting the statutable time. There are also a considerable number of poor scholars, called fizars: these, though not absolutely of the foundations, are capable of receiving many benefactions, called exhibitions; which assist them greatly in passing through such an expensive education; but the number of those pensioners and fizars cannot be ascertained, as it is in a state of perpetual fluctuation.

The University Library was first built by *Rotherham*, archbishop of *York*, who, with *Tosstal*, bishop of *Durham*, furnished it with choice books; few whereof are to be found at present. But it contained nevertheless about 14000 books, when his late majesty king *George I.* was graciously pleased, in the beginning of his reign, to purchase the large and curious library of Dr. *John Moor*, bishop of *Ely*, who died *July 30, 1714*, and, as a mark of his royal favour, to bestow it upon this university.

There have been very lately great additions and alterations made in the library, for the better disposition of this valuable royal present, which consisted of upwards of 30,000 volumes, and cost the king 7000 guineas. And *Charles*, the first lord viscount *Townshend*, having understood that the university, to shew their gratitude, and do honour to the memory of his majesty king *George I.* intended to erect a

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statue of that monarch, was pleased to offer to cause the same to be carved, and set up in the said library at his own expence; which generous tender was received by the university in the manner it deserved, and with circumstances equally to their own and his lordship's honour. And in the month of October 1739, in pursuance thereof, a fine marble statue of this great prince was accordingly erected in the senate-house of the university; on which are the following inscriptions; viz. On the front:

G E O R G I O
Optimo Principi,
Magnæ Britanniaæ Regi,
Ob insignia ejus in hanc Academiam
Merita,
Senatus Cantabrigiensis
In perpetuum
Grati Animi Testimonium
Statuam
Mortuo ponendam
Decrevit.

That is, By the senate of Cambridge it was decreed, that a statue should be erected to his late most excellent majesty George I. king of Great Britain, as a perpetual monument of their gratitude for his signal benefits to this university. On the left:

CAROLUS
Vicecomes Townshend,
Summum tum Academiæ, tum
Reipublicæ Decus,
Pro Eximia, qua Regem coluerat,
Pietate, proque singulari,
Qua Academiam fovarat,
Caritate, Statuam
A Senatu

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*A Senatu Academico decretam
Sumptibus suis e Marmore
Faciendam locavit.*

That is, *Charles lord viscount Townshend*, a principal ornament both of the university and the state, agreeably to his singular loyalty towards his prince, and the particular affection wherewith he had favoured the university, engaged to have the statue, which was decreed by the senate of *Cambridge*, made of marble at his own expence.

*CAROLUS Filius
Vicecomes Townshend,
Virtutum æque ac Honorum
Paternorum Heres,
Statuam,
Quam Pater Morte subita abreptus
Imperfectam reliquerat,
Perficiendam,
Atque in hoc ornatissimo
Academæ Loco collocandam
Curavit.*

That is, *Charles the son, lord viscount Townshend*, heir alike to the virtues and dignities of his father, caused this statue, which his father, surprised by sudden death, had left imperfect, to be completed, and erected in this most honourable place of the university.

The same beneficent king, not contented with having given this noble instance of his royal bounty to the university of *Cambridge*, in the year 1724 was graciously pleased to confer another mark of his favour upon them, and which extended to the university of *Oxford*, in creating a new establishment in a most useful branch of learning, which was much wanted,

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and for which till that time there had been no provision: this was, to appoint two persons, not under the degree of master of arts, or bachelor of laws, skilled in modern history, and in the knowledge of modern languages, to be nominated king's professors of modern history, one for the university of *Cambridge*, and the other for that of *Oxford*; who are obliged to read lectures in the public schools, at particular times; each of which professors to have a stipend of 400*l.* per. annum: out of which each professor is obliged to maintain, with sufficient salaries, two persons at least, well qualified to teach and instruct in writing and speaking the said languages, gratis, twenty scholars of each university to be nominated by the king, each of which is obliged to learn two, at least, of the said languages.

The same prince also was pleased to appoint twelve persons, chosen out of each of the universities, to be preachers in the royal chapel of *Whitehall*, at stated times, with a salary of thirty pounds to each; and declared, that he would cause a particular regard to be had to the members of the two universities in the dispositions of those benefices which fell into the royal gift.

A very fine marble statue, by *Rybrack*, of *Charles duke of Somerset*, who was chancellor of this university for above sixty years, was placed, in July 1756, in the senate-house at *Cambridge*, on the right hand of the door, as you enter. It exhibits a noble figure of the duke in the younger part of his life, raised on a square pedestal, and in the *Vandyke* dress, with the ensigns of the order of the garter, leaning in an easy posture on his left arm, and holding out a roll in his right-hand. The whole piece has a very graceful and majestic look, is extremely well executed, and does honour to the artist. It was a present made to the university by the duke's illustrious daughters, the marchioness of *Granby* and lady *Guernsey*.

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Guernsey. The following inscription in capitals is set on the front of the pedestal :

Carolo
Duci Somersetensi
Strenuo juris Academicorum Defensori
Acerrimo Libertatis Publicae vindici
Statuam
L. M. ponendam decrevit
Academia Cantabrigiensis
Quam Praesidio suo munivit
Auxit Munificentia
Per annos plus sexaginta
Cancellarius.

That is, To Charles duke of Somerset, a strenuous defender of the rights of the university, a zealous assertor of public liberty, this statue, the gift of two most excellent matrons, was willingly and deservedly placed by the decree of the university, which he, chancellor of it above sixty years, defended by his patronage, augmented by his munificence.

On the reverse :

Hanc statuam
Suae in parentem pietatis
In academiam studii
Monumentum
Ornatissimae Faeminae
Francisca Marchionis de Granby Coniux
Charlotta Baronis de Guernsey
S. P. faciendam curaverunt
 1756.

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That is, This statue, a monument of filial duty to their parent, of their affection for the university, the most accomplished ladies, *Frances*, wife of the marquis of *Granby*, *Charlotte*, of lord *Guernsey*, caused to be erected at their own expence, 1756.

An *Italian* statue of *Fame*, by *Borotta*, brought from *Cannons*, the seat of the late duke of *Chandois*, was presented to the university by *Peter Burrel*, junior, esquire.

In the year 1766, his grace the duke of *Newcastle*, chancellor of the university, placed a fine statue of king *George II.* in the senate-house, opposite to that of his royal father *George I.* as a monument of gratitude to his royal master, and of regard to the university. On the front of the pedestal is the following inscription :

*Georgio Secundo,
Patrono suo, optime merentis,
Semper Venerando;
Quod volenti Populo,
Justissime humanissime,
In Pace & in Bello
Feliciter imperavit;
Quod Academiam Cantabrigiensem
Fovit, auxit, ornavit;
Hanc Statuam,
Æternum, faxit Deus, Monumentum
Grati animi in Regem,
Pietatis in Patriam,
Amoris in Academiam,
Suis Sumptibus, poni curavit,
Thomas Holles,
Dux de Newcastle
Academiæ Cancellarius,
A. D. 1766.*

That

That is, To George II. his ever honoured and truly deserving patron, who happily, most justly, and most clemently, governed a willing people, in peace and in war; who cherished, enriched, adorned, this university of Cambridge: this statue was erected as a lasting monument of his gratitude to his king, of his piety to his country; and love to this university, at his own expence, by Thomas Holles duke of Newcastle, chancellor of the university, in the year 1766.

On the 29th of April, 1755, his grace the duke of Newcastle, chancellor of this university, attended by the heads and doctors, and almost all the members of the senate-house, proceeded from Clare-hall to the place intended for the erection of a new public library; and there his grace, after a short address in Latin for success to the undertaking, laid the first stone, in the hollow part of which was placed a great number of gold and silver pieces of his late majesty's coin; and, in another part of it, a copper-plate, with the following inscription:

*Constantiae & Eternitatis sacrum,
 Latus hoc Orientale Bibliothecæ Publicæ,
 Egredia Georgii Iuni
 Britanniarum Regis.
 Liberalitate locupletatae
 Vetuslate obsoletam instauravit
 Georgii II^di Principis optimi
 Munificentia,
 Accedente
 Nobilissimorum virorum,
 Thomæ Holles Ducis de Newcastle,
 Academiae Cancellarii
 Philippi Comitis de Hardwicke Angliae Cancellarii
 Academie summi Seneschallii*

Ac plurimorum Praesulum, Optimatum,

Aliorumque Academæ fautorum

Propensa in Rei literariae incrementum

Splendoremque, benignitate.

Lapidem hunc immobilem,

Operis exordium

Ipsius auspiciis suscepti,

Auctoritate, Patrocinio, Procuratione,

Feliciter, Deo propitio, perficiendi,

Circumstante frequentissima Academicorum Corona :

Prid. Kalend. Maii, M. DCC. L.V.

Sua manu solemniter posuit

Academæ Cancellarius.

bat is, Sacred to Constancy and Eternity, this east side of the public library, enriched by the singular liberality of George I. king of Great Britain, when decayed with age, was rebuilt by the munificence of the best of princes George II. with the additional bounty of the most noble Thomas Holles, duke of Newcastle, chancellor of the university, Philip earl of Hardwicke, lord high-chancellor of England, high-steward of the same, of several prelates, noblemen, and other patrons of the university, warmly affected to the increase and splendor of learning. This immoveable stone, the beginning of the work, under the said auspices, authority, patronage, and procuration undertaken, and, by God's help, to be happily perfected, in presence of a numerous assembly of the gentlemen of the university, the chancellor thereof laid solemnly, with his own hand, on the last day of April, 1755.

Some other benefactions to this university, within
the few years past, are as follow :

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On the death of Mrs. *Addenbroke* (*Mar. 1720*) widow of an eminent physician of that name, the sum of about 4000*l.* devolved to this university; which, by the doctor's will, was to be applied to the building and furnishing a phisical hospital in *Cambridge*, in which poor diseased people were to be admitted for cure *gratis*. The master and fellows of *Catharine-hall* were appointed trustees of this charity. This hospital was erected a few years after; but one of the executors of Mrs. *Addenbroke*, in whose hands the money was lodged, failed, which put a stop to the completing of this building. But in the year 1758, the university having obtained a decree in Chancery for a sum of money arising from the estate of the trustee, in whose hands the money had been, they finished the building, and opened it for a public infirmary, under the sanction of an act of parliament. Dr. *Walker*, sub-master of *Trinity-college*, who died *December 15, 1764*, in his life-time purchased for 1600*l.* near five acres of ground for a physic-garden, and made a donation of it to the university, and by his will left 50*l.* a year for the support of it; but further assistance is wanting to bring it to perfection.

Dr. *John Woodward*, who died *April 25, 1728*, left to the university of *Cambridge* a sum of money, for erecting a lectureship for Natural Philosophy, with a provision of 150*l.* per annum for the support and maintenance of the same for ever. He likewise bequeathed to the said university his collection of fossils, and other natural curiosities, and such a part of his library moreover, as was necessary to illustrate his said collection. The *Woodwardian* lecturers have been, 1. 1731, *Conyers Middleton*, D. D. 2. 1734, *Charles Mason*, B. D. afterwards D. D. 3. 1762, *John Michell*, B. D. 4. 1764, *Samuel Ogden*, D. D. the present professor.

Thomas

Thomas Lowndes, esq; who died in 1748, bequeathed his estate at Overton and Smallwood, in Cheshire, to found a professorship of geometry and astronomy in this university, to be called by his name.

His present majesty has bestowed 100*l.* per ann. on the professor of anatomy, the same sum on the professor of botany, and the like on the professor of chemistry; but, since the death of the last professor, payment of the stipend has ceased, though the present professor is said to be in every respect deserving of such or greater favours.

Cambridge-castle was built by *William the Conqueror*, as one of those many which he erected in divers parts, to curb his new subjects. It was strong and stately, and had in it, among other spacious apartments, a magnificent hall. This being neglected, the stones and timber of it were afterwards begged of *Henry IV.* by the master and fellows of *King's Hall*, towards the building of their chapel. Nothing is now standing but the gatehouse, which is the county gaol, and an artificial high hill of a steep ascent, and level at top.

Adjoining to the town-hall of *Cambridge*, is a new shire-house, built with brick and stone, at the expence of the county; wherein are two courts; one for *nisi prius*, the other for criminal causes; which were opened by lord chief justice *Willes*, and Mr. Baron *Clarke*, August 11, 1747.

The town of *Cambridge* is very large; most of its streets are narrow, the houses ill-built, and the greatest part of them much out of repair; so that, were it not for the colleges, and other public edifices, it would make but a mean appearance; yet both university and town agreed in rejecting the most favourable opportunity that could be hoped for, of paving, lighting, &c. under an act of parliament, about seven or eight years ago; and yet, it is said, they value

value themselves upon being one of the first paved towns.

Here is a good market for fish, butter, garden-ware, &c. at the upper end of which is a very handsome conduit, which supplies the inhabitants with fresh water: this is brought by a small channel from a brook about three miles from Cambridge, and is conveyed through the principal street to the different parts of the town, at the expence of *Habson* the letter-carrier, who left an estate in land to the corporation, for keeping the channel and conduit in constant repair for ever.

From Cambridge the road lies north-west, on the edge of the fens, to Huntingdon. On the great post-road betwixt Royston and Huntingdon stands the little market-town of Caxton, remarkable for being the birth place of *Caxton*, the first printer in England, who died in the year 1486. The Roman way passes from Arington N. W. through Holm into this town, and so on to Papworth, higher up on the same road; which three last-mentioned places are villages only. On this side, it is all an agreeable corn country, adorned with several seats of gentlemen; but the chief is *Wimble-hall*, formerly built, at a vast expence, by an earl of Radnor. It was afterwards bought by his grace *John Holles Cavendish*, duke of Newcastle; in a partition of whose vast estate, it fell to *Edward* earl of Oxford and Mortimer, in right of his lady, the only daughter of the said duke; who brought the earl this estate, and many others, sufficient to denominate her one of the richest heiresses in Great Britain; but his lordship parted with it, a little before his death, to the right honourable the then lord chancellor *Hardwicke*, whose son, the present earl of Hardwicke, now possesses it. It is situated in a dirty country; and, after the cost bestowed upon it from its first owner to this time, the gardens

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and building are both greatly improved, especially by the present possessor.

In the neighbourhood of *Cambridge*, towards *Gogmagog* hills, are many saffron grounds, where a much greater quantity of saffron is annually produced than at or about *Saffron Walden*; so that the market, which was formerly kept there for this commodity, is now kept at *Linton*, a small market-town, of no note, saving that a *Roman* military way falls into the *Iken-ing* here.

Near this town is a noble seat lately belonging to the right honourable lord *Montfort*, called *Horseheathball*, built by the earl of *Arlington*, in the reign of *Charles II.* and last sold in 1777. The house stands on an eminence, so as to command a prospect to the opposite side of the county, which is upwards of twenty miles. The building is lofty, and the apartments large; the two staircases, one on each side of the hall, are much larger and heavier than would be built in these times; but it is said, that lord *Burling-*
ton was against pulling them down.

The hall is very noble; it is thirty-five feet square, and thirty feet high: the approach to this hall is by noble flight of stone steps, the floor being elevated nine feet from the ground; so that the servants offices are below, on the level of the ground; but, besides these, there are two wings of offices of a large extent; so that the whole front is near 500 feet in length: the park was not very large, but the late lord *Montfort* added more land to it: the roads to this park from *Linton*, and through the park, are made very good, though it is in a very dirty country.

Most of the lands in this, and some other parts of this county, are so full of melilot, as to fill the land, and become a very bad weed; for the seeds mix with the corn in such quantities, as to give a nauseous taste to their bread, which is very disagreeable to

strangers, though the inhabitants, who have been long accustomed to eat it, do not complain of it.

From *Cambridgeshire*, my design obliging me, and the direct road in part concurring, I came back, through the west-side of the county of *Esex*, and first to *Saffron Walden*.

Saffron Walden is a fine town, with a good church, where stands a monument of the lord *Audley*, chancellor to king *Henry VIII.* who made him a grant of certain lands belonging to a dissolved monastery near this town, which takes its name from the great quantities of saffron which formerly were cultivated hereabouts, and answered exceeding well in the manufacturing. How it came into decay, nobody could account to me, though there may be still seen a great many acres of saffron-ground about this town. This commodity was never known to grow in *England*, till the reign of *Edward III.* This town was incorporated by *Edward III.* with 24 aldermen, out of whom were yearly chosen a treasurer (the head officer for that year), and two chamberlains his assistants. But by a charter of king *James II.* it has a mayor, besides 11 aldermen, a recorder, and town-clerk. It has two fairs a year, an alms-house well endowed, and a free-school on a royal foundation.

Near this town, on the side of *Cambridge road* stands the noble and stately palace of *Audley-Inn*, or *Audley-End*, formerly the largest palace in *England* and though a great part of it has been pulled down is still one of the most magnificent structures in the kingdom. It was built out of the ruins of the above-mentioned monastery, by *Thomas*, second son of *Thomas*, duke of *Norfolk*, who married the only daughter and heiress of the afore-named lord *Audley*. This *Thomas* was summoned to parliament in quic-

Elizabeth's time, as lord *Audley* of *Walden*; and was afterwards created earl of *Suffolk* by king *James I.* to whom he was first chamberlain, and afterwards lord high treasurer. It was designed for a royal palace for that king; and when it was finished with all the elegance and polite taste of the times, the king was invited to see it; and, as he passed to *Newmarket*, he took up a night's lodging there: when, after having viewed it with great surprize and astonishment, the earl asked him, how he approved of it? Who answered, Very well. But troth, man, said he, it is *too much* for a *king*; but it may *do* for a *lord high-treasurer*; and so left it upon the earl's hands, who is reported to have had then an estate of 50,000*l.* a year. King *Charles II.* purchased this house, and so it became, what it was originally designed for, a royal palace. The king mortgaged the hearth-tax to the earl, to answer the purchase-money; and appointed *James*, then earl of *Suffolk*, housekeeper thereto, with a salary of 1000*l.* a year; which office continued in the family till the Revolution, when the hearth-tax was abolished; and, the exigence of the state being such, as it could not afford to pay the purchase-money, king *William III.* regranted the said house to the family; upon which *Henry* earl of *Suffolk* (who, in his father's life-time, was created earl of *Bindon*, to qualify him to hold the marshal's staff) pulled down a great part of this noble edifice: and yet it is still, as I have said, very large, and makes a grand appearance. The apartments above and below are very lofty and spacious; and there was a gallery, which extended the whole length of the back-front of the house, and was judged to be the largest in *England*; but it has been pulled down several years. Behind the house is a fine park, extending to *Saffron Walden*, well stored with deer; in which there is a rising spot of ground,

whereon if the house had been erected, it would have had a much better effect as to prospect; for its present situation is low. In 1764, the ground, in the front of the house, was elegantly laid out, and a fine substantial stone bridge built over the river, made out of a ditch, by sir *John Griffin Griffin*, knight of the bath, the present owner, who has very considerably improved both house and gardens.

At a small town called *Littlebury*, not far from *Audley-Inn*, is an house which was erected by the famous Mr. *Winstanley*, who built *Eddystone* light-house, and perished in it, as I shall mention in its place. The same gentleman was famous also for his water-works, full of whimsical, but ingenious contrivances.

But I ought not to omit, that near *Ickleton* and *Stretham*, upon the river *Cam*, lies *Chesterford*; where, in the year 1719, were discovered the *vestigia* of a *Roman* city. The foundation of the walls is very apparent quite round, though level with the ground, including about 50 acres. Great part of it serves for a causeway to the public *Cambridge* road from *London*. The *Crown Inn* is built upon it. In the north-west end of the town is the foundation of a *Roman* temple. Many *Roman* coins have been found in the *Borough Field*, as they term the ancient city, whose name was *Camboritum*, according to Dr. *Stukeley*. In this parish, they say, has been a royal manor. Not far off, by *Audley-Inn*, is a great *Roman* camp, upon an eminence, where now stand the ruins of an hunting tower of brick.

A little north of this part of the country rises the river *Stour*, which, for a course of fifty miles or more, parts the two counties of *Suffolk* and *Essex*; passing through or near *Haverhill*, *Clare*, *Cavenish*, *Melford*, *Sudbury*, *Bures*, *Nayland*, *Stretford*, *Dedham*, *Maningtree*, and into the sea at *Harwich*.

As

As we came on this side, we saw at a distance Braintree and *Bocking*, two large and populous towns, which join together, being parted by a little stream of water. These were formerly very rich and flourishing, occasioned by the great trade for bays, which were manufactured in such quantities in these two towns, as to send weekly to *London* four, five, or six waggons laden with them; but this trade having greatly decreased in a few years, the inhabitants were in a very miserable condition; for, by an increase of their poor, their parish-rates were risen so high, that, in the year 1738, the poor's rate in *Bocking* parish was nine shillings in the pound; which, together with their other rates and taxes, rendered it very burdensome to all the inhabitants; and at the same time, the small-pox having infested both the towns, their markets were almost deserted by the country-people. The parish of *Bocking* is a rural deanry, a peculiar of the archbishop of *Canterbury*, and the living is valued at upwards of 500*l.* per annum.

Near *Braintree* is the parish of *Black Notley*, in which are a few scattered houses, scarcely worth noticing, except in honour to the memory of the late learned Mr. *Ray*, (author of "The Wisdom of God, manifested in the Works of the Creation," "The Synopsis Plantarum," and many other valuable books) who was born and resided here some of the latter years of his life. Here he also died, and was buried in the church-yard, over whose grave a monument was erected, with an inscription in Latin.

The country hereabout is pleasant, having many risings and falls, with great plenty of water. The fields are well cultivated, so as to render the whole face of the country like a garden.

Near *Braintree* is *Felsted*, a small village, noted for a flourishing free-school, of an ancient foundation, in the patronage of the earl of *Winchelsea*.

Ingatestone-hall, one of the family seats of lord Petre, lies at a small distance from the public road, on the right-hand, about a quarter of a mile short of *Ingatestone* town.

The house is situated very low, so as not to be seen at a small distance. It is a large, irregular building, and the gardens are old; though there were many alterations made in them for the better by the late lord before he came of age; but as this was not the seat where he intended to reside, his lordship did not employ his fine genius in modelling of these gardens; but his whole thoughts were bent to embellish his noble seat at *Thorndon*, which is situated on a rising ground, about three miles on the right-hand of *Brentwood*.

Thorndon Place is a new and most superb structure. The father of the present lord Petre had begun and half completed a very large house at the extremity of the park, and the termination of an avenue near four miles in length, and had provided every material for the completion of it, even to the doors, floors, wainscoting, &c. when he died, leaving his son, the present lord, an infant; who, soon after he came of age, pulled down the house his father had begun, and with its materials, and those prepared by the late lord, which had been carefully preserved, has erected in the centre of the avenue, and in a very commanding situation, one of the finest houses in *England*. The park is very extensive, and finely timbered; the menagerie is a delightful spot, and the woods can boast not only of the finest trees of this country, but also the greatest variety of exotics, which have attained a perfection never before known in this climate.

In the parish church of *Ingatestone* are to be seen the monuments of this noble family, who by a com-

statu

stant series of beneficent actions to the poor, and bounty upon all charitable occasions, gained to themselves an affectionate esteem through all that part of the country, such as no prejudice arising from a difference in religion could or ought to impair; for great and good actions command our respect, whatever the religious opinions of the benefactors may be.

From hence we crossed the country to the great forest, called *Epping Forest*, reaching almost to *London*. The country on that side of *Essex* is called the *Roodings*, I suppose, because there are no less than ten towns almost all together, called by the name of *Rooding*; and is famous for good land, good malt, and dirty roads, the latter being in the winter hardly passable for horse or man. In the midst of this we see *Chipping Onger*, *Hatfield Broad Oak*, *Epping*, and many forest-towns, famed also for agriculture and good malt.

On the south-west of the county is *Wa'tham Abbey*, which was formerly a monastery, built by *Harold*, son to earl *Godwin*, in honour of the cross. The town is said to have been built and peopled by one *Truius*, towards the latter end of the Saxon reigns. This town is seated on the river *Lee*, where the streams, being divided, inclose several small islands, which, in times of great floods, are commonly overflowed: but these meadows produce great plenty of grass in summer, so that here are many dairy farms, which turn to good account.

The abbey is turned into a seat. The gardens belonging to it were, some years since, in great repute; but, since the taste for inclosed gardens has been condemned, they have been little frequented.

At this abbey was buried the body of king *Harold*, slain in the great battle in *Suffex*, against *William the Conqueror*, whose mother begged that favour of the

victor; a monument was built for him, on which was engraven an epitaph *.

From hence I came again over the lower or western part of the forest, where it is bespangled with villages, filled with fine seats, most of them built by citizens of *London*; but the lustre of them seems to be intirely eclipsed by *Wansted House*, the magnificent palace of earl *Tilney*, which I barely mentioned before.

This noble seat, which was built by sir *Jesiah Child*, the grandfather of the present earl of *Tilney*, is esteemed, and with justice, one of the most beautiful and magnificent private houses in *Europe*. It is of *Portland stone*, and the front towards the forest, though it has given hints to succeeding architects, has never been rivaled by the many imitations of it; but still boasts the finest elevation not only in this, but perhaps any other kingdom. The interior decorations possess all the elegance and splendor of their day; there are many very grand and compleat apartments, and the gallery, or, as it is generally called, the *Ball Room*, is one of the most elegant, pleasing, and best proportioned rooms I ever saw. To magnificence and elegance may be added, a wonderful degree of convenience which this house possesses, and is, in general, too little considered where splendor and show are such principal objects. The original plan of the architect, Mr. *Colin Campbell*, is not, nor, I suppose, ever will be, finished. The present lord *Tilney*, who had some thoughts of compleating it, was advised by the most eminent architects in *Europe*, whom he consulted, to give it no other finishing but that which it at present possesses, consisting of the grand enclosure and its decorations, which forms the entrance to the principal front. The park, though it is by no means equal to the house, is very hand-

* See *Weever's Funeral Monument*, p. 643.

some,

some, and well planted; but as the earl of *Tilney* is hereditary ranger of *Epping Forest*, the whole of that extensive tract may be considered as his park. The gardens are very large, adorned with buildings, and finely watered. In some parts they may, indeed, partake of a greater formality than is consistent with the present taste; nevertheless, they are a very proper appendage to the magnificent edifice which crowns them. The present lord has formed, by the side of the river, a very curious grotto, which will not fail to attract the attention of the naturalist, by the variety, rareness, and judicious disposition, of the shells, minerals, fossils, petrifications, &c. with which it is adorned. Upon the whole, and every circumstance belonging to this place considered, its beauty, situation, vicinity to the capital, &c. it may be esteemed the noblest villa in *Europe*.

From earl *Tilney's* house, and the rest of the fine dwellings on that side of the forest (for there are several good houses at *Wansley*, only that they seem, as I have said, all lost in the lustre of his lordship's palace), I went south, towards the great road over that part of the forest called the *Flats*; and by this turn came necessarily on to *Stratford*, where I set out. And here I shall conclude my second letter.

L E T T E R III.

*Containing a DESCRIPTION of the County of
KENT, &c.*

I SHALL begin my account of the famous county of Kent at *Deptford*. It was anciently called *West Greenwich*, and is a large town, and so much improved, that an handsome new church has been built there, dedicated to *St. Paul*.

At *Deptford* is a society, founded in the year 1515, by sir *Thom. Spert*, knight, and incorporated by *Henry VIII*. by the name of "The Master and Wardens of the *Holy Trinity*." Their business (which is a matter of the highest importance) is to take cognizance of all sea marks, and to erect lighthouses, upon the several coasts of the kingdom, for the security of navigation; to direct the re-placing or repairing of such as may be removed or decayed, and to prosecute every person who wilfully and maliciously destroys or injures them. The cleansing of the *Thames*, and the preventing and removing obstructions upon the river, are within their province. They supply the ships that sail from the river with such ballast as is taken out of it to increase its depth, for which the owners of them pay the company one shilling per ton. There are likewise several other privileges belonging to this company, which is governed by a master, four wardens, eight assistants, and eighteen elder brethren.

Besides *Trinity House*, there is also in *Deptford* another building, called *Trinity Hospital*, which has thirty-eight houses fronting the street. This is a more handsome structure than the other, though not

so ancient, and has a large garden belonging to it. This, as well as the former, is for decayed pilots, masters of ships, or their widows.

But what *Deptford* is most noted for, is its noble dock, where the royal navy was used to be built and repaired, till it was found more convenient to build the larger ships at *Woolwich*, as I shall mention in its place; notwithstanding which, the whole area of the yard is now enlarged to more than double what it formerly was: it has a wet dock of two acres, for ships; and another of an acre and half, for masts; besides an enlargement of its storehouses, dwelling-houses, launches, &c. suitable to it. More than a thousand men are constantly employed in the several departments of it.

From *Deptford* I proceeded to *Greenwich*, one of the most delightful spots in *Britain*.

The park, perhaps, has as much variety, in proportion to its size, as any in the kingdom; but the views from the observatory (called *Flemstead House*), and the *One Tree Hill*, are beautiful beyond imagination, particularly the former. The projection of these hills is so bold, that you do not look down upon a gradually-falling slope or flat inclosures, but at once upon the tops of branching trees, which grow in knots and clumps, out of deep hollows and shady dells. The cattle feeding on the lawns, which appear in breaks among them, seem moving in a region of fairy land. A thousand natural openings among the branches of the trees, break upon little picturesque views of the swelling surf; which, when illuminated by the sun, have an effect pleasing beyond the power of fancy to exhibit. This is the foreground of the landscape: a little further, the eye falls on that noble structure the hospital, in the midst of an amphitheatre of wood. Then the two reaches of the river make that beautiful serpentine

sweep which forms the *Isle of Dogs*, and presents the floating millions of the *Thames*. To the left appears a fine tract of country leading to the capital, which there finishes the prospect.

The ground on which part of the hospital now stands, is the same on which was formerly situated the royal palace of our kings. Here *Henry VIII.* held his feasts with jousts and tournaments: the ground, which was called the *Tilt Yard*, is the spot on which the east wing of the hospital is built.

The park was enlarged, walled about, and planted, by king *Charles II.* soon after the Restoration; and the design or plan of a royal palace was then laid out, one wing of which was finished in a magnificent manner, and makes now the first wing of the hospital towards *London*.

The royal palace now remaining, was originally built by *Humphry duke of Gloucester*, surnamed *the Good*, brother of *Henry V.* and called by the said duke *Placence*. King *Henry VII.* much enlarged it, added to it a small house of *Friers Mendicant*; and finished a tower begun by duke *Humphry* on the top of the hill, where now stands the royal observatory; the beautiful and extensive prospects from which we have already mentioned. It was completed by king *Henry VIII.* and afterwards much enlarged and beautified by *Henry Howard*, earl of *Northampton*, who dwelt in it. Here queen *Mary* and queen *Elizabeth* were born; and here died king *Edward VI.*

This superb hospital was begun by king *Charles II.* who finished one wing at the expence of 36,000*l.* intending it for a palace; king *William III.* erected the other wing, in 1694, and applied it to the relief of seamen, their widows, and orphans; queen *Anne* and king *George I.* continued the work; but his late majesty finished this grand design. Three tables are

hung

hung up at the entrance into the hall, which record the names of several generous benefactors to this noble charity, amounting in the whole to the sum of 58,209*l.* And in the year 1732, the forfeited estate of the late earl of *Derwentwater* (being by means of the right honourable the lord viscount *Gage*, a peer of *Ireland*, recovered out of the hands of certain private persons who had purchased the same, at a rate vastly disproportionate to the value), amounting to near 6000*l.* per annum, was given by parliament to carry on and complete this work; which has enabled them to prosecute it with such vigour and success, that a great progress has been made since that time towards completing this sumptuous edifice.

The hall is very noble, and finely painted by the late sir *James Thornhill*. At the upper end of it, in an alcove, are represented the late princesses *Sophia*, king *George I.* king *George II.* queen *Caroline*, the late queen dowager of *Prussia*, daughter of king *George I.* *Frederick* prince of *Wales*, the duke of *Cumberland*, and the five princesses, daughters of king *George II.* On the cieling over the alcove, are her late majesty queen *Anne*, and prince *George* of *Denmark*; and on the cieling of the hall, are king *William* and queen *Mary*, with several fine emblematical figures.

On a pedestal in the middle of the area of the hospital, fronting the *Thames*, is a statue of his majesty king *George II.*

Anno 1705, 100 disabled seamen were the first that were received into this hospital; but the present number was made up, in December 1737, a complete 1000. To each 100 pensioners six nurses are allowed, who are to be seamens widows, at 10*l.* per annum, and 2*s.* per week more to those who attend in the

the infirmary. Their common cloathing is blue, with brafs buttons.

The chapel is decorated with curious carved work, and is as gay, with gilding, as if the true protestant simplicity were forgotten in its ornaments, &c.

The church of Greenwich is a handsome new-built edifice, dedicated to *St. Alphege*, archbishop of Canterbury, who is said to have been killed by the *Danes* on the spot where the church stands, anno 1012.

There are two free-schools in this parish; one founded by sir *William Boreman*, knight; the other set up by Mr. *John Roan*, who left his estate for teaching boys in reading, writing, and arithmetic; allowing 40*s.* a year for each boy's cloaths: their number is 20.

There is also an handsome college in this town, which fronts the river, for the maintenance of 20 poor men and a master, founded and well endowed by *Henry earl of Northampton*, and committed by him to the care of the Mercers Company of London. A chapel belongs to this college, where the earl's body is laid, which, as well as his monument, was removed hither a few years ago, from the chapel of Dover castle, whereof he was constable.

This town may be said to be one of the genteelst, as well as pleasantest, in England: the inhabitants are many of them persons of note and fashion, who have served abroad in the fleets or armies, and here pass the remainder of their days in ease and delight; having the pleasure to reflect upon the dangers they have gone through, and the faithful and honourable parts they have acted on the public stage of life in their country's cause.

A market was erected in the year 1737 at this town, the direction of which is in the governors of the hospital; and the profits which shall arise from it

it are to be carried to the use of that fine foundation. This market is kept every *Wednesday* and *Saturday*.

The river *Thames* is here very broad, and the channel deep; and the water, at some very high spring-tides, is salt; but, in ordinary tides, sweet and fresh. The king's yachts generally lie here.

Near the town of *Greenwich*, stood for many years a magazine for gunpowder, in which frequently were reposed from 6 to 8000 barrels. The apparent danger it was exposed to, of being blown-up by treachery, lightning, or other accidents, arising from its defenceless situation and ruinous condition, and the extensive and scarce-reparable damage, which the explosion of such a quantity of gunpowder might have been attended with, not only to that part of the town nearest to it, but to the royal palace and the magnificent hospital there, and which might even by the shock affect the dock-yards and storehouses both at *Deptford* and *Woolwich*, and even the cities of *London* and *Westminster*, as well as the banks of the river on both shores, and the navigation upon it, occasioned, so long ago as in the year 1718, an application to parliament for the removal of the magazine to some safer and more convenient place; and his majesty king *George I.* was pleased then to give orders to the officers of the ordnance to remove it. But no provision being made for purchasing land to build another, and to defray necessary expences, nothing was done in it; and the old magazine grew more and more dangerous, and out of repair.

In the year 1750, the application to parliament was renewed, when his late majesty gave orders for an estimate of the expence to be laid before the house; which was done in 1754, together with a survey, recommending a proper place, &c.

The good work, in the year 1760, was solicited with such proper effect, that an act passed in the begin-

beginning of that year, intituled, "An act for taking down and removing the magazine for gunpowder, and all buildings thereunto belonging, situate near Greenwich in Kent, and erecting instead thereof a new magazine for gunpowder at Purfleet, near the river Thames, in the county of Essex, and applying a sum of money towards those purposes; and for obviating difficulties arising upon an act, made in the last session of parliament, for a weekly composition for lands and hereditaments, purchased for his majesty's service at Portsmouth, Chatham, and Plymouth."

The country behind Greenwich adds to the pleasure of the place: *Black Heath*, both for beauty of situation, and an excellent air, is not outdone by any spot of ground in *England*. Indeed, all around it are scattered the villas of the nobility, gentry, and capital merchants: it may number the duke of *Montague*, the lords *Dartmouth*, *Chesterfield*, *Falkland*, and many others of rank and fortune, among its inhabitants.

Near this is a vast hill, where the *London* archers performed their exercises upon grand occasions, and were sometimes visited by the sovereigns: whence it took the name of *Shooter's Hill*.

On the east-side of *Black Heath* stands the hospital built by sir *John Morden*, bart. a *Turkey* merchant. Several years before his death, which happened in 1708, he erected this spacious structure, in form of a college, solely at his own charge, in a field called *Great Stone Field*, not far from his own habitation, for the reception of poor, decayed, honest merchants, wheroof in his life-time he placed 12 there. But, by reason of great losses, they were reduced to four in the lady *Morden's* time, who was forced to retrench the expences of the house, because the share allotted her by the last will of sir *John*, and some parts

parts of his estate, did not answer so well as was expected.

When she died, sir *John's* whole estate coming to the college, the number was again increased, and there are at this time 35 poor gentlemen in the house; and the number not being limited, they are to be increased as the estate will afford; for the building was designed for, and will conveniently hold, 40.

Seven *Turkey* merchants have the direction and visitation of this hospital, and the nomination of the persons to be admitted into it; and as often as any of these seven die, the survivors are to choose others to fill up that number.

The treasurer of this hospital has 40*l.* per annum. There is also a chaplain, who is to read prayers twice a day in the chapel, and to preach twice every Sunday. His salary at first was 30*l.* a year; but the lady *Morden* doubled it at her death. She was in other respects a benefactress to the college; and as she put up her husband's statue in a niche over the gate of the college, the trustees have also put up hers in another niche adjoining to that of her husband.

The pension is 20*l.* per annum each. At first they wore gowns, with the founder's badge, which for some years past has been discontinued.

The chapel within the college is neatly wainscoted; and hath a costly altar-piece; and it has a burying-place adjoining, for the members of the college. The founder, according to his own desire, was buried in a vault under the communion-table of this chapel.

The chaplain, the treasurer, the merchants, are all indispensably obliged to be resident there; and, unless in case of sickness, no other persons are to reside, live, or lodge there; and no one is to be admitted

mitted as a pensioner, who cannot bring a certificate to prove himself upwards of 60 years of age.

In a word, as the situation of the place is pleasant, the air good, and the endowment sufficient, this may be said to be one of the most comfortable and elegant pieces of charity in *England*.

Near this college, on the south-east extremity of *Black Heath*, is a noble house, or rather palace, built by the late sir *Gregory Page*, bart. whose father was a brewer at *Greenwich*. It is one of the finest seats in *England* belonging to a private gentleman; and the park, gardens, and country without, and the masterly paintings, rich hangings, marbles, basso relievos, within the house, command the attention of every person of genius and taste. Sir *Gregory Page*, at his death, bequeathed this seat, with a large estate, to his nephew sir *Gregory Turner*, of *Ambresden*, in *Oxfordshire*, bart. who has taken the name and arms of *Page*, in compliance with his uncle's request; but not residing here, the house has been lately let to the earl of *Suffolk*.

It was begun, raised, and covered, in the space of 11 months; which shews how soon a large building may be finished, where money, the finews of building, &c. is not wanting.

On the other side of the heath, north, is *Charlton*, a well-built pleasant village. The church was beautified and repaired by order of sir *Adam Newton*, bart. who was preceptor to king *James the First*'s son, prince *Henry*. It is one of the neatest churches in this county.

At the entrance of this village, fronting *Black Heath*, stands an ancient house, built by the same sir *Adam Newton*, who had this manor granted to him by king *James I.* It is a long pile of building in a Gothic taste, having four turrets on the top: the court before the house is spacious, at the entrance

of which are two large Gothic piers to the gates, and in a line on the outside of the wall is a long row of cypress trees, which are some of the oldest in England. On the back of the house are large gardens, remaining in the same taste in which they were formerly laid out; and behind these is a small park, which joins to *Woolwich Common*. This house is now in the possession of the marquis of *Lothian*.

Charlton is noted for the fair held in its neighbourhood on *St. Luke's day*, *October 18*, called *Horn Fair*; the rudeness practised in which, in a civilized, well-governed nation, may well be said to be unsufferable. The mob at that time take all kinds of liberties, and the women are eminently impudent that day.

A vulgar tradition gives the following origin to this disorderly fair; namely, "That one of the kings of *England*, some say king *John*, for he had a palace at *Eltham* in this neighbourhood, being hunting near *Charlton*, and separated from his attendants, entered into a cottage, and found the mistress of it alone; and she being handsome, the king took a liking to her; and, having prevailed over her modesty, just in the critical moment her husband came in; and, threatening to kill them both, the king was forced to discover himself, and to compound with gold for his safety, giving the man moreover all the land from thence as far as the place now called *Cuckold's Point*; and, making him master of the whole hamlet, established a fair in favour of his new demesne; and in memory thereof, horns, and wares and toys of all sorts made of horn, are sold at this fair.

Through this town lies the road to *Woolwich*, a town situated on the bank of the river, and wholly taken up by, and in a manner raised from, the yards and works erected there for the naval service. For here, when the business of the royal navy increased,

and

and queen *Elizabeth* built larger and greater ships of war than were usually employed before, new docks and launches were erected, and places prepared for the building and repairing ships of the largest size; because here was a greater depth of water, and a freer channel, than at *Deptford*.

The docks, yards, and all the buildings belonging to it, are encompassed with an high wall, and are spacious and convenient; and so prodigiously full of all sorts of stores of timber, plank, masts, pitch, tar, and other naval provisions, as can hardly be calculated.

Besides the building-yards, here is a large rope-walk, where the biggest cables are made for the men of war; and, on the east or lower part of the town, is the gun-yard, commonly called the *Park*, or the *Gun-park*, where is a prodigious quantity of cannon of all sorts for the ships of war, every ship's guns apart; heavy cannon for batteries, and mortars of all sorts and sizes; insomuch that, as I was informed here have been sometimes laid up at once between 7 and 8000 pieces of ordnance, besides mortars, and shells almost beyond number.

Here also is the house where the firemen and engineers prepare their fire-works, charge bombs, carcasses, and grenades, for the public service. The royal regiment of artillery does duty at *Woolwich*.

Here is usually a guard ship riding, especially in time of war. The town of late years is much enlarged and beautified; several fine docks, rope-yards, and capacious magazines, added; and the royal foundery for cannon repaired and improved. The *Thames* is here at high water near a mile over, and the water salt upon the flood; and as the channel lies straight east and west for about three miles, the tide runs very strong, and the river is entirely free from shoals and sands, and has seven or eight fathom water;

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water; so that the largest ships may ride here with safety, even at low water*.

The parish-church of *Woolwich* was lately rebuilt as one of the 50 new churches.

From this town, till we come to *Gravesend*, the whole shore is low, and spread with marshes and unhealthy grounds, except some few intervals, where the land bends inward, as at *Erith*, *Greenhithe*, *Northfleet*, &c. in which places the chalk hills almost join the river; and from thence the city of *London*, the adjacent counties, and even *Holland* and *Flanders*, are supplied with lime, or with chalk to make it. Just above *Erith*, stands *Belvidere*, once the seat of lord *Baltimore*, afterward of the late *Sampson Gideon*, stock-broker, in *London*, and is now the property of his son sir *Sampson Gideon* bart. who is now erecting a very large house, which will include one drawing room only of the former mansion.

From these cliffs, on the river-side, the rubbish of the chalk, which they must be otherwise at the charge of removing, is bought and fetched away by lighters and hoyes, and carried to all the ports and creeks in the opposite county of *Essex*, and even to *Suffolk* and *Norfolk*, and sold there to the farmers to lay upon their land, which they do in prodigious quantities.

This is the practice in all the creeks and rivers in *Essex*, even to *Malden*, *Colchester*, the *Naze*, and into *Harwich* harbour up to *Maningtree* and *Ipswich*; as also in *Suffolk*, to *Aldborough*, *Orford*, *Dunwich*, *Southwold* and as high as *Yarmouth* in *Norfolk*.

Thus the barren soil of *Kent* (for such the chalky grounds are esteemed) makes the strong clay lands of *Essex* rich and fruitful; and the mixture of earth

* According to *Camden*, the ship *Harry Grace de Dieu* was built here early as the third of *Henry VIII.*

forms a composition, which, out of two barren extremes, makes one prolific medium.

Behind these marshy grounds in *Kent*, at a small distance, lies the road from *London* to *Dover*, on which, or near it, are several good towns.

Eltham was formerly a royal palace, when the court was kept at *Greenwich*; and queen *Elizabeth*, who (as before said) was born at *Greenwich*, was often carried to *Eltham* by her nurses, to draw-in the wholesome air of that agreeable place; but at present there are few or no signs of the old palace to be seen.

It is now, however, a pleasant town, very handsomely built, full of good houses; and many families of rich citizens inhabit there, who bring a great deal of good company with them. The manor is held under lease from the crown by sir *John Shaw*, whose seat and plantations here do honour to his taste.

Near *Eltham* lies *Chefihurst*, where is the burying-place of the family of the *Walsingham*s, who resided in this parish for several generations.

This village is noted for the retirement of the famous *Camden*, who resided here for several years, and here composed the greatest part of his *Annals of queen Elizabeth*. Here the present lord *Camden* has a very handsome and pleasant seat, in whose park may be seen that celebrated piece of ancient architecture, called the *Lantern of Demosthenes*, executed in all its proportions, which serves as the covering of a spring.

Near this are several other towns and villages, as *Bexley*, *Crayford*, *Foot's Cray*, *North-Cray*, &c. At *Foot's Cray*, is a handsome seat, inhabited by *Thomas Townshend*, esq; brother of the late lord viscount *Townshend*.

From this side of the country, all pleasant and gay, we go over *Shooter's Hill*, where the face of

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things seems quite altered ; for here we have but a chalky soil, and far from rich; much overgrown with coppice-wood, which is cut for faggots and bavins, and sent up by water to *London*. Upon the top of this hill, is a spring which constantly overflows the well, and in the severest winters is not frozen. From hence there is a prospect which must convey a very grand idea of the riches and commerce of our metropolis to foreigners who pass over it in their way from *Dover* to *London*; as the view of the *Thames* covered with shipping from thence to the capital, whose steeples and towers seem as it were mingled with the masts, is the most magnificent commercial prospect the world can afford.

Between *Shooter's Hill* and *Dartford*, at no great distance from the road, is *Danson-Hill*, the new-built seat of sir *John Boyd*, baronet, which contains some elegant apartments, and is surrounded with lawns, woods, and fine water.

Dartford is an handsome large town, having some good houses in it, and is finely watered by two or three good springs ; the river goes through the town, and discharges itself into the *Thames*.

The first mill also, for slitting of bars of iron for making of wire, was on this river.

There are two church-yards here, one contiguous to the church, and the other on the top of the hill towards *North-fleet* ; in the latter of which you may look over the tower of the church, the ground rising suddenly so very high.

Here is a very good market for corn on *Saturdays*, and an annual fair on the 22d of *July*.

Gravesend lies on the north-side of *Kent*, on the river *Thames*, about seven miles east from *Dartford*, and about the same distance from *Rochester*. The towns of *Gravesend* and *Milton* were incorporated in the 10th year of queen *Elizabeth*, by the name of

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the portreve, jurats, and inhabitants, of the towns of *G. wsend* and *Milton*. As this place is the most frequented paslge of taking boat for *London*, by perions who come from *Dover*, *Rochester*, &c. or through any part of *Kent*, from foreign parts, queen *Elizabeth* ordered the mayor, aldermen, and companies of the city of *London*, to receive all eminent strangers and embassadors here in their formalities, and so to attend them to *London* in their barges, if they came by water; and if they came by land, they were ordered to meet them on *Black-heath*, on horse-back, in their gowns.

King *Henry VIII.* raised here a platform of guns, and another at *Milton*, as well as two others over-against them on the *Essex* side, for the security of the river. But, since the erection of *Tilbury-fort*, these have been demolished.

Here is a very handsome charity given by one Mr. *Henry Pinnock*, in the year 1624, of 21 dwellings, and an house for a master-weaver to employ the poor; and a good estate is also settled for the repairs.

In this town, on the east-side, is still standing the body of an ancient chapel, which seems to have belonged to some religious house. A market is kept here on *Wednesdays* and *Saturdays*, and an annual fair on the 13th of *October*, which lasts a week.

There have been very great improvements made of the lands near this town within a few years past, by turning them into kitchen-gardens, the land being fresh for this purpose, as also pretty moist, and the town having a good quantity of dung made in it, with which they manure the land: it produces good garden-stuff in great plenty, wherewith they not only supply the towns for several miles round, but also send great quantities to the *London* markets; particularly asparagus, which is so much esteemed, that the name of *Gravesend* will bring a better price, than what

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what is brought from any other place, this having obtained a greater reputation than *Battersea*, which was some years since famous for it.

As *Gravesend* is the great ferry (as they call it) between *London* and *East-Kent*: it is hardly credible what numbers of people pass here every tide, as well by night as by day, between this town and *London*. Most of the lower people of *East-Kent*, when they go for *London*, go no farther by land than this town: then for 9*d.* in the tilt-boat, or 1*s.* in a small boat or wherry, are carried to *London* by water. Tide-coaches convey them to and from *Rochester*, *Chatham*, &c. at 1*s. 6d.* each.

The only place remarkable hereabouts is *Gad's Hill*, immortalised by *Shakespeare* and *Falstaff*, as this is supposed to have been the spot, on which prince *Henry* and his dissolute companions robbed the *Sandwich carriers*, and the auditors, who were carrying money to his father's exchequer.

From *Gad's Hill* we come to *Rochester* bridge, the highest, and the strongest built, of all the bridges in *England*, except those of *London* and *Westminster*. Some indeed say, the bridge of *Newcastle upon Tyne* exceeds all the bridges in *England* for strength; but then it is neither so high, nor so long, as this at *Rochester*. It is supported by 11 arches, and was built in 1392 by that famous captain in the wars of *France*, sir *Robert Knowles*, in the reign of *Henry IV.* (an account of which may be seen in *Lambard's Iterambulation of Kent*, Edit. 1576) and railed in with iron at the charge of archbishop *Warham*. It is 560 feet long, and 14 broad.

The river *Medway*, at this place, is very broad and rapid, capable of receiving ships of the greatest burthen, and is above six hundred feet wide. *Rochester* was the *Roman city Durobrivæ*, and was very strong, being walled about and ditched. Many antiquities

tiquities have been found hereabouts. This city stands in an angle of the river, and seems to have been of a square form, the ancient *Watling-street* running directly through it. Most of the walls still remain; and a large piece of the *Roman* wall, made of rubble-stone laid sloping side-ways, is to be seen near that angle below the bridge, encompassed by the river, with *Roman* bricks in several places.

Rochester, *Strood*, and *Chatham*, are three distinct towns, but in a manner contiguous.

Rochester has suffered very much by fire and war. It consists chiefly of an ill-built long street. *Strood* is separated from it only by an handsome stone bridge, and may alone pass for a small city, being well-built, but has nothing very remarkable in it.

The castle of *Rochester* was erected, as *Lambard* thinks, by king *William I.* upon one angle of the river. The walls of the great tower now left are seven feet thick. The body of the cathedral was built before the Conquest, and repaired by bishop *Gundulph*, who likewise built the castle. The great tower is called *Gundulph's Tower*. The chalky cliff under the castle-wall, next the river, is a romantic sight. The rapidity of the stream wastes it away, and then huge tracts of the wall fall down. On the north-side of the north-west tower of the church, lately rebuilt, is *Gundulph's* effigies. The front of the church is of the old work, but a new window is put in the middle. The eastern gate of the city is now pulled down; the stones were of a *Roman* cut. The town-hall and charity-school are two of the best public buildings in *Rochester* and *Strood*, except the churches. *Rochester* returns two members to parliament, and is governed by a mayor, recorder, and 12 aldermen, of whom the mayor is one, 12 common-councilmen, a town-clerk, three serjeants at mace, and a water-bailiff.

But *Chatham*, being the chief arsenal of the royal navy of *Great Britain*, is the most considerable of the kind in the world. It was made a royal yard by queen *Elizabeth*, and owed its first establishment to that great seaman, sir *John Hawkins*, who deserves to be styled the father of our mariners, for settling that inestimable fund of charity there, denominated from thence the *Chest of Chatham*. The private buildings, as the houses of the sea-officers, directors, inspectors, and workmen belonging to the royal navy, are well-built, and many of them stately. But the public edifices there are indeed, like the ships themselves, surprisingly large, and in their several kinds beautiful. The warehouses, or rather streets of warehouses, and storehouses for laying up the naval treasure, are the largest in dimension, and the most in number, that are any-where to be seen in the world. The rope-walks for making cables, and the forges for anchors and other iron-work, bear a proportion to the rest; as also the wet-dock, canals, and ditches, for keeping masts and yards of the greatest size, where they lie funk in the water to preserve hem: the boat-yard, rope-yards, the anchor-yard, forges, foundries, all not easy to be described.

Rochester has a market every *Friday*, and, by grant from king *Henry I.* two annual fairs; viz. *May* the 30th, and *December* the 12th. The ground on that side of the town next the river is very low and marshy, being overflowed by every high tide, which renders the situation unpleasant, and the air unwholesome, from the vapours which arise from these salt marshes.

It is about 16 or 18 miles from *Rochester* bridge to *Bernewell's fort* by water, on the river *Medway*; of this it is about 14 miles to *Black-stakes*. The channel is so deep all the way, the banks so soft, and the beaches of the river so short, that, in a word, it is

the safest and best harbour in the world ; and we saw two ships, of 80 guns each, riding afloat at low-water, within musquet-shot of Rochester bridge. The ships ride as in a mill-pond, or a wet-dock, except that being moored at the chains, they swing up and down with the tide ; but as there is room enough, they are moored in such a manner, that they cannot swing foul of one another : nor did I ever hear of any accident that befel any of the king's ships here by storms and weather, except in that dreadful tempest in 1703, when the *Royal Catharine* was driven on shore, and, receiving damage, sunk ; and the ship, being old, could not be weighed up again.

There are two castles on the shore of this river, opposite to each other, the one at *Upnor*, the other called *Gillingham* castle, both designed to guard two reaches of the river ; besides, at a place called *The Swamp*, a fort now known by the name of *Bird-Nest Fort*, and another at *Cockham Wood* ; all which (though they might be made of great service in time of war, in case of such another daring attempt as the Dutch made upon the royal navy in this river, on the 22d of June, 1667) I found neglected when I last visited them.

Sheerness, which guards the entrance into the river at the point of the isle of *Shepey*, is a regular fortification, and has such a line of heavy cannon commanding the mouth of the river, that no fleet of men of war could attempt to pass by, without hazarding being torn to pieces.

It is not only a fortress, but a good town with several streets in it, and inhabitants of several sorts, but chiefly such whose business obliges them to reside here. The officers of the ordnance have here an office ; they being often obliged to be at this place many days together, especially in time of war, when the rendezvous of the fleet is at the *Nore*, ^{see}

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see to the furnishing every ship with military stores, as need requires, and to cheque the officers of the ships in their demands of those stores, &c.

Here is also a yard for building ships, with a dock intended chiefly for repairing ships that may meet with any sudden accident. But then it is to be observed, that those are generally but for fifth and sixth-rate ships, small frigates, yachts, and such vessels; though once, when I was there, I saw one upon the stocks of 64 guns*. This yard is a late thing also, and built many years since that fort. In making some alterations at *Sheerness*, anno 1760, a ball was found that weighed 64 pounds, supposed to have been fired by the *Dutch* in their attempt above mentioned.

Shepey Isle is supposed to be so called, from its being one of the first places in *England* where sheep were kept, or from its affording great plenty of those useful animals. This island is encompassed with the mixed waters of the *Thames* and the *Medway* on the west, with the *Swale* on the south, and with the main ocean on the north and east. It hath great plenty of good corn, but wants wood. It is about 21 miles in compass. Copperas and brimstone were formerly made in the isle of *Shepey*.

Here are several *Tumuli*, in the marshy parts all over the island, some of which the inhabitants call *Caterels*: these are supposed to have been cast up in memory of some of the *Danish* leaders, who were buried here; for the *Danes* have often made this island the scene of their ravages and plunder.

There was anciently a bridge and causeway between this isle and *Harty*: this was called *Thrembethbridge*, as afterwards the ferry was called *Tremod-*

* It is now very much augmented, and rendered in all respects so commodious, that ships of great force are built there.

Ferry. The common way into this island, from the main land of Kent, is by *King's Ferry*, where a long cable of about 140 fathom, being fastened at each end across the water, serves to get over the boat by hand.

On the main side of the ferry is a small stone building, which will hold nine or ten persons: this is said to have been erected by one *George Fox*, who staying once there a long while in the cold, waiting for the ferry-boat, and being much affected with it, built this place, to shelter others from the like inconvenience.

In the upper grounds of this island is great plenty of good corn; but equal scarcity of fresh water, most of their springs being brackish.

A great number of marine plants grow in the salt marshes, which induce the curious in botany to visit this island frequently in the midst of summer, when the plants are in perfection. This place is also remarkable for the most curious petrefactions.

At the south-west point of the isle of *Shepey*, where the East *Swale* parts from the west, and passes on as above, stands *Queenborough*; so called by king *Edward III.* in honour of his queen *Philippa*, daughter to *William earl of Hainault and Holland*. Here was a castle erected by king *Edward III.* as a defence of the mouth of the river *Medway*. This castle was repaired in the year 1536, by king *Henry VIII.* who at the same time built others at *Deal*, *Walmer*, &c. for the defence of the sea-coasts. The governors of *Queenborough* castle were formerly honoured with the title of constable; and by the list of them it appears, that many of them were men of great consideration.

At present there are not any remains of this castle to be seen; the ground where it stood is moated round; and there is a well, about 40 fathom deep,

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still remaining. By the several ordinances which were made by king *Edward III.* relating to naval affairs, it appears this place was then very famous; but at present it is a miserable dirty fishing town; yet has a mayor, aldermen, &c. and sends two burgesses to parliament; although the chief traders of this town seem to be alehouse-keepers and oyster-catchers, and their votes at an election for parliament-men are the principal branch of their scandalous traffick. A pernicious practice! too much followed in better towns, and which may one day be of fatal consequence to the liberties of *Britain*.

Here we took boat, and went up the *East Swale* to *Milton*, or *Middleton*, as formerly called, which lies, as it were, hid among the creeks; for it is almost out of sight as well by water as by land; and yet it is a large town, has a considerable *Saturday* market, for corn, fruit, and other provision; and the oysters taken in the grounds about this town are the most famous of any in *Kent*. This town is governed by an officer, who is called by the old Saxon name *Port-reve*; he is chosen annually on *St. James's* day, and supervises the weights and measures all over the hundred of *Milton*. It had anciently a royal palace for the *Kentish* kings, and was styled the royal town of *Middleton*.

I took a view, while I was in these parts, of *Cobham-hall*, six miles from *Chatham*, the seat of the earl of *Darnley*, an handsome brick house, built by *Inigo Jones*, and remarkable for the excellent marble chimney-pieces in most of the rooms.

At *Raynham* church, near *Rochester*, we saw several monuments of the family of the earl of *Thanet*; and the steeple is reckoned a sea-mark.

From hence, keeping the coast and the great road together (for they are still within view of one another), we come to *Sittingbourne*, formerly a market-

town, but still a considerable thoroughfare, and full of good inns.

Just by the town are the ruins of a fortification raised by king *Alfred*, when in pursuit of the *Danes*, called *Bayford castle*. Here they boast much of one *John Norwood*, esq; having entertained king *Henry V.* on his triumphant return from *France* in 1420; and though the entertainment was, according to the times, very elegant, yet the whole expence of wine amounted to no more than 9*s.* 9*d.* being one penny per pint.

In January 1738, were found in a shaw belonging to the estate of sir *John Hales*, in the neighbourhood of *Tunstall*, several hundred broad pieces of gold, which were thought to have been concealed in the civil wars by an ancestor of sir *John*. They were found by a poor boy, who was rambling in the coppice, and, not knowing their value, was playing with some of them at a farmer's, who got possession of them; but, not being able to keep the secret, he refunded 62*4* of the broad-pieces for the use of the crown, though sir *John* laid claim to the whole, as did the lord of the manor of *Milton*, which is paramount to that of *Tunstall*.

From *Sittingbourne* we came to *Faversham*, a large fine town, having one long and broad street: it has a good market-house, where the market is kept on *Wednesdays* and *Saturdays*; and there are two annual fairs in this town, of 10 days each; viz. on *February* the 25th, and on *August* the 22d. This town is well peopled, and in a flourishing state, being in the neighbourhood of one of the best parts of *Kent*, and having a commodious creek to bring in, or carry out, their goods; but many of the inhabitants have carried on the smuggling trade for years, for which this creek lies very convenient.

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The fishermen here have a good custom: they will admit no one to take out his freedom, unless he be a married man.

They have also a law among themselves, by which they are restrained from bringing oysters into the town but at certain times, and in limited quantities; so that it is impossible to get any oysters there, but at particular times.

At *Feversham* was a monastery, founded by king *Stephen* in 1147, where he was buried with his family. At present none of its extensive buildings remain entire, its two gates being lately taken down, after attempts to preserve them had proved fruitless. At the dissolution, they say, the coffin of lead, which held the royal body, was taken up and sold; but the corpse was thrown into the *Thames*, and taken up by some fishermen. Here, in the year 903, king *Ethelstan* enacted laws.

In the year 1754, the nave or body of the old church, being found to be in a very hazardous state, a new and handsome one has been built under the direction of Mr. *Dance*, which, with its fine organ, &c. cost upward of 3000*l.*

It was at the mouth of this *Swale*, namely, at *Shellness*, so called from the abundance of oyster-shells always lying there, that the smack in which the late king *James II.* embarked for his escape into *France*, ran on shore, and being boarded by the fishermen, the king was taken prisoner; the fishermen and rabble treated him, even after they were told who he was, with the utmost indecency, using his majesty with such personal indignity, and searching him in so rude a manner, that the king said, "he was never more apprehensive of losing his life than at that time." He was afterwards carried by them up to the town, where he was not more nobly treated for sometime, till certain neighbouring gentlemen of the

county came in, who understood their duty better, by whom he was preserved from farther violence, till coaches and a guard came from *London*, by the prince of *Orange's* order, to conduct him with safety and freedom to *London*.

From this *East Swale*, and particularly from these three towns, *Queenborough*, *Milton*, and *Feverham*, the fish-market at *Billinggate* is supplied with several sorts of fish; but particularly with the best and largest oysters, such as some call stewing, others *Milton* oysters; as they are from the *Essex* side with a smaller as well as with a greater sort, called *Walfleet*.

I shall now cross the hills from *Milton* to *Maidstone*, on the river *Medway*, near ten miles distant from *Rochester*, to the south-east.

Maidstone is a very ancient town: the river *Medway*, over which it has a bridge, is navigable up to it by large hoys, of 50 or 60 tons burden, the tide flowing quite up to the town.

Here is carried on a manufacture of linen-thread, and likewise in the neighbourhood are great plantations of hops, which were supposed to be first planted here at the beginning of the Reformation; which gave occasion to the following distich:

Bays, reformation, hops, and beer,
Came into England all in a year.

Maidstone is eminent for plenty of provisions, for richness of lands, and for the best market in the county, not excepting either *Rochester* or *Canterbury*. It has also an handsome bridge, which, in the opinion of some, is inferior only in length to that of *Rochester*.

From this town, and the neighbouring parts, *London* is supplied with more particulars than from any single market-town in *England*.

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1. From the *Weald of Kent*, which begins but about six miles off, and particularly from that part which lies this way, they bring the large *Kentish* bullocks.
2. From hence are brought great quantities of the largest timber for supply of the king's yards at *Chatham*, and often to *London*; most of which is at present brought by land-carriage to *Maidstone*.
3. From the country adjoining, great quantities of corn are brought up to *London*; also hops, apples, and cherries.
4. A kind of paving-stone, called *Kentish-rags*, about eight or ten inches square, exceeding durable, used to pave court-yards, &c.
5. Fine white sand for the glass-houses, used for melting into flint-glass, and looking-glass plates; and for the stationers use also, vulgarly called writing-sand.

All that side of the county which I have mentioned, as it is marshy and unhealthy, by its situation among the waters, is chiefly inhabited by ship-builders, fishermen, seafaring-men, and husbandmen, and such as depend upon them; and very few families of note are found among them. But as soon as we come down *Boxley Hill* from *Rochester*, or *Hollingbourn Hill* from *Milton*, to the well-watered plain on the banks of the *Medway*, we find the country every where bespangled with populous villages, and delicious seats of the nobility and gentry; and especially on the north side of the river, beginning at *Aylesford* on the *Medway*, the seat of the earl of that name, and looking east towards the sea, to *Eastwell* near *Ashford*, lately the seat of the earl of *Winchelsea*.

There is not much manufacturing in this county; what is left is chiefly at *Canterbury*, and in this town of *Maidstone*, and its neighbourhood. The

manufacture of this town is principally linen-thread, which they make to pretty good perfection, though not extraordinary fine. At *Cranbrook*, *Tenterden*, *Goudhurst*, and other villages in the neighbourhood of this place, was once a considerable cloathing-trade carried on; and the *Yeomen of Kent*, of whom so much has been said by Faime, and who inhabited these parts, were generally much enriched by it; but that trade is now almost entirely decayed.

This town of *Maidstone* is a peculiar of the archbishop of *Canterbury*, who is the proper incumbent, and puts in a curate to officiate for him. The archbishop had a palace here, now belonging to lord *Romney*, which is esteemed very ancient, to which there is a chapel belonging. The architecture is Gothic, but good of the kind; and some parts of it have been repaired after the modern manner. *Maidstone* was a Roman station, named *Vagniacæ*, or *Madviacæ*, from the British word *Mædwæg*, the meadows on the river *Vaga*, which are here beautiful. The archiepiscopal palace was founded by *John Ufford*, and finished by *Simon Iffip*. The college or hospital was erected by archbishop *Boniface*, and a charity by *Thomas Arundel*, now the free-school. About the year 1720, several canoes were dug up, made of hollowed trees, in the marshes of the river *Medway* above *Maidstone*. In the lands of Dr. *Dodd* at *Addington*, near *Malling*, in the year 1720, a British coin of electrum, a mixed metal of gold and silver, was found in the foundation of a stone wall: the convex side was plain; on the concave was a British horse, rude enough.

The assizes are generally held here, and always the county elections. It is governed by a mayor and 12 jurats, and returns two members to parliament.

Charing, not far off, was the ancient *Durolenum*, situated upon a spring of the river *Len*. Here the

archbishops of *Canterbury* had a castellated palace, given them by one of the first *Saxon* kings, of which there are large ruins.

In my way to *Maidstone*, on a former journey, I saw *Mereworth Castle*, two miles S. E. of *Malling*, the seat of lord *Le Despencer*, but now let to *James Butler*, esq; a fine piece of architecture, designed by *Colin Campbell*, in imitation of an house in *Italy* built by the famous *Palladio*. It is a square, extending 88 feet, and has four porticoes of the Ionic order. In the middle there rises above the roof a semicircular dome, which has two shells; the one forms the stucco cieling of the salon, being 36 feet diameter; the outward shell is carpentry, covered with lead. Between these two shells is a strong brick arch, that brings 24 funnels to the lantern; which is finished with copper: but by this contrivance the misfortune is, that the chimnies often smoke. On a rising ground, within a mile and a half of *Aylesford*, I viewed an antiquity, vulgarly called *Kettscotty-house*, consisting of four great stones, of that kind called *Kentish-rag*, and then deemed the tomb of *Catigarn*, brother of *Vortigern*, king of the *Britons*, slain in battle, and there buried. This ancient remain is situated about a quarter of a mile to the right of the great road leading from *Rochester* to *Maidstone*; two of these stones are set parallel; a third at the west-end, perpendicular to these two, and closing the end; the fourth, which is the largest, is laid transversely over, but neither mortised, nor parallel to the horizon, but reclines towards the west, in an angle of nine degrees. Perhaps the east end, now open, was formerly closed, as at about 70 yards to the N. W. lies another large stone, of the same sort and form.

In prosecuting my journey from *Maidstone* to *Canterbury*, I cannot help mentioning *Lenham*, a town about 17 miles distant from that city; in relation to which

which the right reverend continuator of *Camden* records the following extraordinary circumstance :

" At *Lenham*, says he, is a thing exceeding remarkable, mentioned on the tomb of *Robert Thompson*, esq; in the church there, who was grandchild to that truly religious matron, *Mary Honywood*, wife of *Robert Honywood*, of *Charing*, esq. She had at her decease, lawfully descended from her, 367 children; 16 of her own body; 114 grand-children; 228 in the third generation; and nine in the fourth. Her renown liveth with her posterity; her body lieth in the church, and her monument may be seen in *Mark's Hall*, in *Essex*, where she died."

From hence I pursued my journey to *Canterbury**, which all writers agree was called, by the *Britons*, *Caer-Kent*, and is the *Durovernum* of the *Romans*; of which city, and its antiquities, so much has been said, and so accurately, that I need no more than mention it briefly. However, I observe here,

1. That *Augustine*, the monk, the first christian preacher that came from *Rome* into this island, settled in this place: but that he was the first that preached christianity in this island (as some have suggested) is a mistake; as the famous conference between him and the monks of *Banchor* in *Wales* sufficiently testifies.

2. That seven archbishops of *Canterbury*, including that *Augustine*, lie buried here in one vault.

* *Canterbury* is seated in a pleasant valley, about a mile wide, between hills of a moderate height, and easy ascent, with fine springs rising from them; besides which the river *Stour* runs through it, whose streams, by often dividing and meeting again, water it the more plentifully, and forming islands of various sizes, in one of which, formerly called *Binnewitb*, the western part of the city stands, makes the air good, and the soil rich. Such a situation could hardly want inhabitants, while these parts had any inhabitants at all; nor was any spot more likely to unite numbers in forming a neighbourhood or a city, than one so well prepared by nature for defence and cultivation.—*Gosling's Walk in and about the City of Canterbury*.

3. That

3. That *Thomas Becket*, archbishop of this see, insulted the king his sovereign in an unsufferable manner ; insomuch that in the reign of *Henry II.* 1170, he was here murdered in the cathedral, by the connivance, as some say, of the king ; and they shew what they call his blood upon the pavement at this day.

4. That they shew the stones round his shrine (by being afterwards canonized) worn away to a slope, by the knees of the pilgrims, who visited it.

5. That the bodies of king *Henry IV.* and of *Edward the Black Prince*, are buried here ; and the magnificent effigies of the latter, very curiously carved, lies on his tomb or monument. Here is a pretty chapel, originally designed for the celebration of masses for the soul of king *Henry IV.*

6. That the immense wealth offered by votaries and pilgrims, for several ages, to the shrine of *Becket*, was such, that the famous *Erasmus*, who saw it, says of it thus : “ All shone, sparkled, glittered, with rare and very large jewels ; and even in the whole church appeared a profuseness above that of kings.” In short, gold was one of the meannest treasures of his shrine ; and at the dissolution, as *Dugdale* observes, the plate and jewels filled two great chests, each whereof required eight men to carry it out of the church. And *Camden* says, “ the name of *Christ*, to whom it was dedicated, was almost laid aside for that of *St. Thomas.*”

7. That all this immense treasure, with the lands and revenues of the whole monastery, were seized upon by king *Henry VIII.* at the general suppression of religious houses, except such as are annexed to the deanry and chapter, and to the revenue of the archbishoprick, which are not very considerable.

8. Here are also to be seen the monuments of cardinal *Chatillon*, cardinal *Pole*, archbishop *Chicheley*, arch-

archbishop *Peckham*, carved in wood upwards of 450 years ago; archbishop *Warban*, the duke of *Clarence's*, sir *George Rooke's*, with many others of less note.

The cathedral is a large and noble pile of building; very curious remnants of painted glass are still to be seen in the windows. It is entirely vaulted with stone, and of a very pretty model; but much too high for its breadth, as all Gothic buildings were, except *York*. The middle tower is very beautiful; but the towers, called *Bell Harry Steeple*, from a bell so denominated, at the west end and west front, are much inferior, and very little of symmetry was observed by the first builder, if we suppose the whole was erected at once. The metropolitan chair, supposed formerly to belong to the *Saxon* kings, is of grey marble, standing behind the high altar. The cloisters are good, and near them a very large chapel, called the *Sermon-house*, roofed with *Irish* oak. Under the choir is a large protestant *French* church, of curious *Saxon* architecture, given first by queen *Elizabeth* to the *Walloons*, who fled hither from the persecution of the duke *d'Alva*. The number of these refugees has been since very much increased by *French* protestants, obliged to leave their native country, through the cruelty of *Louis XIV*.

The close, where the houses of the prebendaries stand, is very spacious and fair, and a great many good houses are built in it, and some with pretty gardens. This city sends two members to parliament, and has a free school, founded by king *Henry VIII*. It is governed by a mayor, a recorder, 12 aldermen, a sheriff, 24 common councilmen, &c &c.

Here are many remains of *Roman* and *Saxon* buildings. This city is strongly walled about, with many towers at due intervals, a deep ditch close underneath,

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and a great rampart of earth within. The materials of the walls are chiefly flint.

The castle was built by the *Saxons*, long before the Conquest, of the same form, and the walls of the same thickness, with that of *Rochester*. *Dungeon-hill*, a very high mount, seems to have been an out-work of the old castle. The top of it is equal to the top of the castle, and exhibits a fine prospect over the city and country. Opposite to it, without the walls, is an hill, seeming to have been raised by the *Danes* when they besieged the city.

Of *St. Augustine's* monastery, two gates remain next the city, and both very stately. One led to the monastery, the other to the cemetery, and a great compass of ground is inclosed within the wall. There were continual quarrels between the monks of *St. Augustine* and those of *Christ Church*, both very rich, and very contentious.

Near this monastery is a vast angular piece of a tower (besides half of another) about 30 feet high; which has been undermined by digging away a course at bottom, in order to be thrown down; but happened only to disjoint itself from the foundation, and lodged itself in the ground in the present inclining state. Thus, being equally poised, it presents a view of terror, and forbids a too near access.

The adjacent close is full of religious ruins, and in a corner of it are the walls of a chapel, said to have been a christian temple before *Augustine's* time, and re-consecrated by him to *St. Pancras*. Near it is a little room, said to have been king *Ethelbert's* pagan chapel.

Eastward of this, and farther out of the city, is *St. Martin's* church, said to be *Augustine's* first see, and the place whither king *Ethelbert's* queen used to repair to divine service. It is built mostly of *Roman* brick. In the middle is a very large old-fashioned font,

font, supposed to be that where the king was baptized.

North of the city is a very small remainder of the chapel belonging to the priors of *St. Gregory's*, founded by archbishop *Layfranc* about 1180.

The city has been much advantaged by the settlement in it of 2 or 3000 French protestants, men, women, and children, owing to the abovementioned expulsion of the French protestants under *Lewis XIV.*

The employment of those refugees was chiefly *broad-silk weaving*, which has suffered several changes and alterations; but is still carried on here to some account.

But what have added most to the advantage of *Canterbury*, are the hop-grounds all round the place, to the amount of several thousand acres, insomuch, that *Canterbury* was, for some time, the greatest plantation of hops in the whole island.

Whitstable, a place of little consequence in former times, is now, from its being a kind of port to *Canterbury*, become a town of brisk trade, and a great deal of business. *Faversham* was indeed of note in early times, but would probably have shared the fate of other towns, and sunk in consequence of the loss of its famous abbey, but for its commodious creek, by which it is not barely sustained, but is in a very thriving condition, exporting (when they are plenty) large quantities of oysters to *Holland*. The same may be affirmed of *Milton* and *Queenborough* in the isle of *Sheppey*, and if we take in *Rochester*, and its dependencies on the *Medway*, we may, without injury to truth, assert, that there come annually from these places to *London*, from 7 to 900 vessels of all sizes.

The shore from *Whitstable*, and the *East Swale*, affords nothing remarkable but sea-marks, in particular the two spires of *Reculver*, the *Roman Regulbrum*,

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and other small towns on the coast, till we come to *Margate*, noted formerly for king *William's* frequently landing there in his returns from *Holland*, and for shipping a vast quantity of corn for the *London* market, most, if not all of it, the product of the isle of *Thanet*, in which it stands. A tract of country about nine miles from east to west and eight from north to south, and boasts a state of arable cultivation, not to be exceeded if equalled in any part of this kingdom.

Margate is now become a place of great resort for sea-bathing, where every accommodation is prepared that the place will admit of to render immersion in the salt water pleasant and efficacious. Hence, from a small town, inhabited only by fishermen and smugglers, it is now increased to a place of very considerable magnitude, and adorned with houses fit for the reception of people of the first rank, and with places of amusement and recreation which will satisfy those who are the most addicted to them. People also of the middle and inferior classes may have recourse to the benefits of this place by the cheapness of a sea voyage; as hoy and yachts are continually passing between this place and *London* for the conveyance of goods and passengers at a very cheap rate.

To the left of *Margate*, between *North Down* and *King's Gate*, are *Hackendown Banks*, two tumuli or barrows of earth, which mark the spot whereon a bloody battle was fought between the *Danes* and *Saxons* in the year 853, and where, on digging, regular graves with skeletons, urns, &c. &c. have been found. To perpetuate the memory of this action, the late lord *Holland* erected a monument with proper inscriptions.

At a small distance from hence is an indenture in the cliff called *King's Gate*, which name it received
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by order of king *Charles the second*, who landed here with the duke of *York* in his passage from *Dover* to *London* on the thirtieth of *June 1683*. At this place, situate on a small but pleasant bay, is the delightful and elegant seat of the honourable Mr. *Charles Fox*, and built by his father lord *Holland*. It is intended to resemble an *Italian villa*; but more particularly that of *Tully's Formian Villa*, on the coast of the bay of *Baiae*, near the city of *Puzzolo*. It is a large and elegant structure, contains some very noble apartments, is adorned with a great number of fine antique statues, bustos, basso reliefos, &c. and at the same time, from itself as well as the surrounding buildings, possesses a singularity which baffles all description.

At about the distance of half a mile from *King's Gate*, is the extreme point of the *North Foreland*, which is the extremity of *East England*. This cape projects a great way into the sea in the form of a bastion; and a line drawn from hence due north to the *Naze* in *Essex* may be said to form the mouth of the river *Thames* and the port of *London*. On the point, in the year 1683 was erected a strong octagon flint building, on whose top a large fire of coals is kept blazing all night as a guide for ships sailing near the coast.

From hence you descend to *Broad Stairs*, or *Bradstow*, part of the parish of *Saint Peter*. In the year 1759, it sent thirteen sloops to *Ireland* for the cod fishery, but the trade has, of late, much declined. Opposite to this place are the *Goodwin Sands*, which extend in length; from north to south, about ten miles, and in breadth about two, and are visible at low water. Scarce a winter passes but they prove the grave of many vessels; as the ships that strike seldom escape, being generally swallowed up in a few tides, and sometimes in a few hours.

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From this point westward, we proceeded to *Ramsgate*, situate in the cove of a chalky cliff. It was formerly but an obscure fishing village, but since the year 1688 has been improved and enlarged by a successful trade to Russia and the east country. But what renders it most worthy of notice, and attracts multitudes of strangers, is the new harbour, which is one of the most capacious in *England*, if not in *Europe*. It was begun in the year 1750, and, though delayed by various interruptions, is almost entirely compleated. It consists of two piers, that to the east is built wholly of *Purbeck* stone, and extends itself into the ocean near 800 feet before it forms an angle: its breadth on the top is 26 feet, including a strong parapet wall, which runs along the outside of it. The other to the west is constructed of wood as far as the low water mark, but the rest is of stone. The angles, of which there are five in each pier, consist of 160 feet each, with octagons at the end of 60 feet diameter, leaving an entrance of 200 feet into the harbour, the depth of which admits of a gradual encrease of 18 to 36 feet.

This harbour is intended as a place of refuge for ships in the frequent hard gales of wind from south-east to east-north-east, when they are expos'd to the greatest danger in the Downs. But after all the immense cost attending this stupendous work, not less than 300,000*l.* after all the time, trouble, and contrivance, which have been employed and exerted in compleating this enormous undertaking, it collects so much sand, mud, &c. that it, by no means, answers the great end designed by its construction.

A gentleman, well known for his mechanical skill, is said to have actually invented a machine by which the harbour may be effectually cleared of its incumbrances, and prevented from re-collecting them; and the inhabitants of the place express themselves in

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the most sanguine tone of expectation with regard to the success of it.

Proceeding to the southward in our way to *Sandwich*, we passed two or three houses which are the only remains of the antient town of *Stonar*, well known to the Antiquaries of this country, to many of whom it has furnished a very curious subject of research and examination.

About a mile to the right of this place is *Ribborough*, the *Rutupium* of the *Romans*, and their first and most considerable station in this kingdom, being the chief port from whence they carried on their trade and connections with the continent. The remains of the castle are still visible, and appear of considerable extent. The walls, whose original height cannot be ascertained, because they are no where perfect, are, in some parts, near twelve feet in thickness, composed chiefly of flints and *Roman* bricks, the latter are sixteen inches in length, eleven broad, and the intervening spaces filled up with round beach stones. The whole eastern side of the castle is sunk down and destroyed by the fall of the cliff, the remainder is ruinous and overgrown with ivy, and stands a melancholy monument of its pristine greatness.

Upon an eminence near the castle are the remains of an amphitheatre made of turf, where the garrison is supposed to have exercised themselves in the manly diversions of those days. The soil is gravel and sand, and has long been ploughed over. To those who may wish for a particular account of, and examination into, these venerable remains, I should recommend a very ingenious little discourse by Dr. Battely, entitled *Antiquitates Rutupinae*, a translation of which, with explanatory notes, has lately been published by the reverend Mr. Duncombe of Canterbury.

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One mile from *Stonar*, after crossing the *Stour* by the new bridge we entered *Sandwich*. This town is situated near a mile and an half from the sea, is one of the cinque ports, and, of course, sends two members to parliament. It lies in the bottom of a bay, at the mouth of the river *Stour*, and was formerly a town of great repute and trade; but the harbour being, in a great measure, choaked up, it is now fallen into decay. It contains three parish churches. There was formerly a fourth, but there are now no remains of it; the church-yard is still enclosed, and used for the interment of strangers. It has also three hospitals, a custom house, a quay, and a free-school. It is governed by a mayor, jurats, and commonalty; and when any business is to be transacted at the town-hall, the freemen are summoned to appear by the sound of a brazen horn of great antiquity, blown by the cryer in stated parts of the town.

The river is now about ninety feet wide at high water, over which horses, carriages, &c. were used to be conveyed in flat-bottom boats; but, in the year 1756, the present bridge was begun, large contributions being given by the representatives of the town, the neighbouring gentry, and inhabitants, for that purpose. The streets of *Sandwich* are narrow and irregular, and its trade consists chiefly in coals, iron, timber, deals, &c. with which the country is supplied. There is shipped also at this port, for the London markets, corn, malt, fruit, and garden seeds, for the latter of which the soil of this place is in great repute.

Six miles from hence is *Wingham*, which gives title of baron to earl *Cowper*. From *Sandwich* I went to *Deal*, called by *Caesar*, *Dola*, he having landed not far from that place. Near it is the famous road for shipping, so well known all over the trading world

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by the name of the *Downs*, and where almost all ships which arrive from foreign parts for *London*, or go from *London* to foreign parts, and pass the channel, generally stop; the homeward-bound, to dispatch letters, send their merchants and owners the good news of their arrival, and set their passengers on shore; and the outward-bound, to take in fresh provisions, to receive their last orders, letters, and farewells, from owners and friends, &c. Sometimes, when the wind presents fair, ships come in here, and pass through at once, without coming to an anchor; for they are not obliged to stop, but for their own convenience.

Notwithstanding the decayed condition of this place, it might be made one of the best harbours on the coast, by cutting a new channel for the river about a mile and an half through the sand-hills to the south-east, as the water of the river *Stour* would sufficiently scour it, did it run in that direction.

The *Downs* would be a very wild and dangerous road for ships, were it not for the *South Foreland*, an head of land forming the east point of the Kentish shore; and is called the *South*, as its situation respects the *North Foreland*; and which breaks the sea off, which would otherwise come rolling up from the west to the *Goodwin* *Sands*.

And yet on some particular winds, and especially if they over-blow, the *Downs* proves such a wild road, that ships are driven from their anchors, and often run on shore, or are forced on the *Goodwin-Sands*, or into *Sandwich-bay*, or *Ramsgate pier*, in gret distress: this is particularly when the wind blows hard at south east, or at east by-north, or east-north-east, and some other points; and terrible havock has been made there at such times.

But the most unhappy instance that can be given of any disaster in the *Downs*, was in the time of that

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terrible tempest, which we call, by way of distinction, *The Great Storm, November 27, 1703.* Unhappy in particular, for that there chanced at that time to be a great part of the royal navy come into the *Downs*, in their way to *Chatham*, to be laid up.

Five of the biggest ships had the good fortune to push through the *Downs* the day before, finding the wind blew then very hard, and were come to an anchor at the *Gunfleet*; and had they had but one fair day more, they had been all safe at the *Nore*, or in the river *Medway*, at *Black-stakes*.

There remained in the *Downs* about 12 sail, when this terrible tempest began, at which time *England* may be said to have received the greatest loss that ever happened to the royal navy at one time, either by weather, by enemies, or by any accident whatsoever. The short account of it is as follows :

The *Northumberland*, a third-rate, carrying 70 guns, and 353 men; the *Restoration*, a second-rate, carrying 76 guns, 386 men; the *Stirling-Castle*, a second rate, carrying 80 guns, and 400 men, but had only 349 men on board; and the *Mary*, a third-rate, of 64 guns, having 273 men on board; these were all lost, with all their men, except one man out of the *Mary*, and 70 men out of the *Stirling-Castle*, who were taken up by boats from *Deal*.

Besides these, the loss of merchants ships was exceeding great, not here only, but in almost all the ports in the south and west of *England*, and also in *Ireland*.

The town of *Deal* is very much improved of late years; to which the great resort of seamen from the ships in the *Downs* has not a little contributed.

The great conveniency of landing here has also been of infinite benefit to the place, so that it is large and populous, containing upwards of 4000 inhabitants, is divided into the upper and lower towns, and

adorned with many good buildings, being, in effect, the principal place upon the *Downs*; and, on that account, having both in war and peace a continual resort of people. *Henry VIII.* for its protection, not only built a castle here, but also two others, one on the north called *Sandown* castle, and another on the south, styled *Walmer* castle; so that, in all respects, *Deal* is the most flourishing place upon this coast, enjoys a very considerable portion of trade, and has, for the present, eclipsed *Sandwich*, the port to which it is a member. Several persons also resort here in summer time for sea-bathing; but the shore being very bold and steep, the machines cannot be drawn by horses as at *Margate*, but are let down by a capstan.

I took a view of *Sandown* castle, *Deal* and *Walmer* castles.

Sandown castle is composed of four lunettes of very thick arched-work of stone, with many port-holes for great guns. In the middle is a great round tower, with a cistern at top; and underneath, a arched cavern, bomb-proof. A foss encompasses the whole, to which is a passage over a draw-bridge.

Between *Walmer*-castle and *Deal*, was probably the spot where *Caesar* landed in his first expedition, because it is the first place where the shore can be ascended north of *Dover*; and exactly answers his assigned distance of eight miles. In his second expedition, with many more ships, and upon a more perfect knowledge of the country, he might land at *Deal*.

Dover stands in a most romantic situation: it is in a great valley, and the only one about this coast where water is admitted inwards of the cliff, which is here very high. The sea formerly came a good way higher up, and made a large port. Anchors have been found above the town. The *Roman*

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Dubris was to the south of the river. The *Roman Watling-street* enters it at *Bigin-gate*, coming very straight from *Canterbury* over *Barham-down*, where it is very perfect. Some of the walls are left. The churches are of a very antique make; that of *St. Martin* was collegiate, founded by *Wightrea* king of Kent, and is a venerable ruin. It was built in form of a cross. Of the priory (now a farm-house) are large remains. The hospital, or *Maison Dieu*, over-against it, is made a store-house. Here the knights hospitallers, or templars, lodged, as they came into or went out of the kingdom. The piers which form the haven, or large basin, are costly and great works. Above is a fort with four bastions of modern date. The broad beach, which lies at the mouth of this great valley, and was the harbour in *Cæsar's* time, is very delightful. One long street here is named *Snaregate*, from the most tremendous rocks of chalk which project directly over the bournes.

The castle is the strongest fortification, perhaps, in the world, for an old one. It takes up thirty acres on its scite; and forms an amazing collection of shells, ditches, arches, embattlements, &c. to render it impregnable according to the antient mode of strength and defence. But this grand and memorable fortress, once the key of *Britain*, and which has so often protected her from slavery and foreign dominion, is now neglected and in decay, and its materials at the mercy of those whose appointments give them a power over it.

The brass gun, called *Queen Elizabeth's Pocket Pistol*, is a great curiosity, 22 feet long, and is excellently well wrought, requires 15 pounds of powder, and carries a ball seven miles. Here are two very old keys, and a brass horn, which seem to be the ensigns of authority belonging to the constable of the castle,

or lord warden of the cinque ports. One part of the fortifications consists of a circular work, in which stands an old church, said to have been built by *Lucius* the first Christian king of *Britain*, out of some of the *Roman* ruins; for there are huge antiquities of *Roman* brick laid into the work; and the remainder is of stone, originally cut by the *Romans*. It is in form of a cross, and has a square tower in the middle. The stone windows are of much later date than the building: but the greatest curiosity is the pharos, or *Roman* watch-tower, standing at the west-end of the church. This building was made use of as a steeple, and had a pleasing ring of bells, which sir *George Rooke* procured to be carried away to *Portsmouth*. Since which time, the lead which covered it has been taken away by order of the officers of ordnance; so that this rare piece of architecture is left exposed to the sea and weather. Here was found a coin of *Dioclesian*. The *Erpinghams* arms, ver, an escutcheon, between eight martlets, argent, are patched up against one side of the pharos; so that it seems to have been repaired in the days of king *Henry V.* when the lord *Erpingham* was warden of *Dover* castle.

Upon another rock, overagainst that on which the castle is situated, and almost as high, are the remains of an old watch-tower, now vulgarly called *Bredenstone*, otherwise *Devil's Drop*, from the strength of the mortar. Here the new constable of the castle is sworn. Under this place king *Henry VIII.* built the mole or pile called the *Pier*, that ships may ride therein with great safety. But though it was done with vast labour and expence, by large beams fastened in the sea, bound together with iron, and great piles of wood and stone heaped upon all; yet the fury of the sea was soon too hard for the work, and the timbers beginning to disjoint, queen *Elizabeth* ex-

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pended great sums upon it. And several acts have passed to repair and restore the same; some of which also include the restoration and preservation of the harbour of *Rye*.

Dover, the *Portus Dubris* of the *Romans*, is one of the cinque-ports, and was formerly bound to send 21 ships for the wars. Here most of the business of these ports in general is done, and the courts are kept. The other cinque-ports are *Hastings*, *Hythe*, *Romney*, and *Sandwich*. *Hastings* has two appendages, namely, *Winchelsea* and *Rye*, which, as well as *Hastings*, are in *Sussex*, and the others in *Kent*; they have all great privileges; their burghesses, on the coronation of our sovereigns, support the canopy over their heads, have a table at the king's right hand, the canopy for their fee, and enjoy other privileges. The lord warden of these five ports is generally one of the first noblemen in the kingdom.

Dover is incorporated by the name of the mayor, jurats, and commonalty, and as a cinque-port sends two members to parliament. It still continues to be the station for mails and pacquet-boats to *Calais*, *Oyland*, &c. &c. and derives no small benefit from that circumstance, since the visiting the neighbouring continent is much the fashion with us, and that the higher classes of *France* have given the *Ton* to excursions to this kingdom.

There are no less than six regular packet-boats, and the common fare of a passenger is 10*s.* 6*d.* These sail regularly, unless the wind is unfavourable, on *Saturdays* and *Tuesdays*. There are also several bye-boats, with elegant accommodations, in constant employ. From hence, also, are exported the chief part of the *English* horses intended for foreign markets.

Dover has a market on *Wednesday* and *Saturday*, and a fair on the 22d of *November*. It is situated

72 miles from *London*, 16 from *Canterbury*, and 13 from *Sandwich*, and machines set out and return from the capital every day.

Beyond this place, to the south, in the road to *Folkstone*, is a cliff of a very great height, which, though it may not entirely answer to the following description of the poet *Shakespeare*, in his tragedy of *King Lear*, is sufficient to fill any one who ventures to its brink with terror and astonishment.

*There is a cliff, whose high and bending head
Looks fearfully on the confined deep.
How dizzy 'tis to cast one's eyes so low !
The crows and choughs, that wing the midway air,
Seem scaree so gross as beetles. Half-way down,
Hangs one that gathers samphire; dreadful trade!
Methinks he seems no bigger than his head.
The fishermen, that walk upon the beach,
Appear like mice, and yon tall anchoring bark
Diminish'd to her cock; her cock a buoy,
Almost too small for sight. The murmuring surge,
That o'er the unnumber'd idle pebbles chafes,
Cannot be heard so high. I'll look no more,
Left my brain turn, and the deficient sight
Topple down headlong.*

From *Dover* to *Folkstone* are six or seven very romantic miles: the road runs along the edges of vast precipices, the shore very high and bold, and nobly varied. From the hill, going down to the lower town, the view is glorious: you look down on the fine sweep of inclosures, many of them grass, of the most pleasing verdure. The edge of the lower grounds describe as beautiful an outline as can be imagined, the union of sea and land being complete. We were fortunate in an azure sky and clear sun; so that the ocean presented a vast expanse of burnished

nished silver. The hills of *France* save the eye the fatigue of an unbounded range of sky and water. As you descend the hill, the prospect extends to the right; the vale opens, and spreads to the view a fine range of inclosures, bounded to the land by many hills, rising in a great variety of forms: the whole scenery magnificent.

Folkstone is a little village now, which the sea has made great inroads upon; but which formerly made a greater figure. A copious spring went through the town. Two pieces of old wall, seemingly *Roman*, hang frightfully over the cliff. Here are some old guns, one of iron of a very odd cast, doubtless as old as the time of king *Henry VIII*. Many *Roman* coins have also been found. And here a nunnery was built by *Eanswide*, daughter of *Eadbald*, king of *Kent*. This place is now principally of note for a multitude of fishing-boats belonging to it, which are one part of the year employed in catching mackerel for the city of *London*. The *Folkstone* men catch them, and the *London* and *Barking* mackerel-smacks, of which I have spoken at large in *Essex*, come down and buy them, and whisk away to market under such a croud of sails, that one would wonder they could bear them. About *Michaelmas*, these *Folkstone* barks, among others from *Shoreham*, *Brightelmstone*, and *Rye*, go away to *Yarmouth* and *Leeslott*, on the coast of *Norfolk* and *Suffolk*, and catch herrings for the merchants there.

Sandgate castle, situated in the bottom of two hills, on the sea-shore, hath about 16 guns to defend the fishing-craft from the insults of privateers, in time of war: it was built by king *Henry VIII*.

After we have passed this castle, we enter upon the beach. Here are many springs, which, descending from the higher ground, sink immedately into this beach, rendering it a little boggy.

Hythe, one of the cinque-ports, and which, as such, returns two members to parliament, stands on the edge of the less ridge; but the marsh has intercepted it from the sea.

Hythe in Saxon signifies a port or station; but at present it hardly answers the name; for the sands have so choaked it up, that the sea is shut out from it to a great distance. This town, as also *West Hythe*, from which the sea retired above 200 years ago, owe their original to *Lemanis*, or *Limne*, a Roman port, now a little village adjoining, which was formerly a very famous port, before it was shut up with sands thrown in by the sea; which gave rise to the two *Hythes* before mentioned, which, in their turns, have met with the same fate. A particular providence happened at *Hythe*, April 24, 1739. About eleven o'clock the steeple of their church, in which were six bells, fell down. About 10 persons were present when it fell, waiting in the church-porch for the keys to go up into the steeple for a view; but some delay being made in bringing them, they happily received no other damage than being greatly frightened. In a vault under the church we saw a vast heap of human bones, some of an extraordinary size, said to be gathered up after a bloody battle fought between the *Britons* and *Danes*; of which, however, there is no memorial.

Hythe had anciently four parishes, though now there is only a chapel dependent upon the parish church of *Saltwood*. Hence it appears, that the welfare of all these places, springing from their ports, shifted as those did; this of *Hythe* is now in a manner utterly lost, notwithstanding some chargeable attempts to restore it. *Hythe* is governed by a mayor, jurats, &c.

About a mile distant from it is *Saltwood-castle*, anciently a strong seat of the archbishop of *Canterbury*; but

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but alienated from the see by archbishop *Cranmer*, and now the property of sir *Brook Bridges*, bart. The outer wall has towers and battlements, and a deep ditch. Within, and on one side, stands the main body of the palace. There are two great and high towers at the gate of this, over which are the arms of archbishop *Courtney*, the founder. This inner work has a stronger and higher wall, with a broad embattled parapet at top. Within is a court, but the lodgings are all demolished. The floor of the ruinous chapel is strongly vaulted. In the middle of the court is a large square well, seemingly *Roman*. They say that anchors have been dug up hereabouts, which makes it likely that the *Romans* had here an iron forge; and some will have it, that the sea came up formerly to it, and ground this opinion on these anchors found here.

A little way farther (at the end of the *Stane-Street*, the *Roman* road from *Canterbury*) is the port of *Lemanis* or *Limne*, mentioned above. At *Limne* church, from the brow of the hill, may be discerned the ruinous *Roman* walls, situate almost at the bottom of the marshes. A pleasant brook, which rises from the rock, west of the church, runs for some space on the east side of the wall; then passes through it, and so along its lowermost edge, by the farm-hou'e at bottom; here coins havo been found. Once the sea-bank broke, and admitted the ocean into all the adjacent marshes. The port is now called *Shipway*, where the lord warden of the cinque ports was formerly sworn, the courts kept, and all the pleas relating thereto, till *Dover* superseded it.

Romney is a handsome town, and likewise a cinque-port, and corporation, governed by a mayor, jurats, and commonalty, and, as such, returns two meimbers to parliament: it is the chief town of the marsh-grounds which were anciently part of the sea, called

Romney-marsh; and has *Old Romney* and *Lech* for its members. It is seated on an high hill of gravel and sand, and on the west side of it had a pretty large harbour, guarded against most winds, before the sea retired from it. In the year 1287, when the town was at its height, it was divided into 12 wards, had five parish churches, a priory, and an hospital for the sick. But it has been dwindling till it came to its present low condition, ever since the reign of *Edward I.* when an inundation of the sea destroyed men, cattle, and houses, threw down a whole populous village called *Prom-hill*, and removed the *Rother*, which used to empty itself into the sea at *Romney*, out of its channel, stopping up its mouth, and opening it a nearer passage into the sea by *Rye*, leaving here only a little bay for fishing-boats. The town chiefly subsists by grazing cattle in the marsh, which contains between forty and fifty thousand acres of firm, fruitful land, the richest pasture in *England**.

From *Romney-marsh* the shore extends itself a great way into the sea, and makes that point of land called *Dengynes*. Just by the river *Rother* stands the little town of *Appledore*, which, by disuse, has lost its market, and is of no note now. The sea formerly came up to it.

Tenterden, a corporate town, lies a little to the N. W. of *Appledore*, near the *Weald*. Here is a grammar free-school, founded by Mr. *Hayman*, the ancestor of sir *Peter*. It has a very good and high steeple, which, they say, was the cause of the

* This is probably the spot, which the elegant and able writer of the *Genoese Letters* against *Voltaire* had in view, when he mentions the prodigious number of sheep fed in a certain quantity of marshy ground. To whom the wag of *Ferney* replies, that sheep are apt to rot in marshy grounds; that he has lost his so; and advises the owner to convert them into fish ponds, as carp will thrive in such places. The answer is, that the owners of estates in *Romney marsh* will never take his advice, but feed sheep there, to their great profit.

Goodwin Sands, an estate that belonged to earl *Goodwin*, and was guarded from the sea by a wall; but they were so intent on building the steeple, that the wall was neglected, and the land overflowed, which they could never afterwards recover.

Ashford, also a corporate town, stands on the great road, upon the river *Stour*. It is a pretty well built market-town, with several genteel families in it. The church is large, and was formerly collegiate: they hold pleas for any thing not exceeding twenty marks.

Near this town is an ancient seat of the *Tusson* family, called *Hothfield*, which is large, but situated in a low marshy soil, which renders it unhealthy; and not far from hence is *Eastwell*, the house and very extensive park of the earl of *Winchelsea*.

Newendon deserves to be mentioned for what it once was, having formerly been a fine city, which *Camden* calls *Anderida*. It was destroyed by the Saxons, but rebuilt in the reign of *Edward I.* and called *Newendon*, as much as to say, according to *Camden's* etymology, a new city in a little valley. It had then an harbour much frequented; but it is now a most miserable village, with a few poor houses in it, the best an alehouse; and the church is ill-built, and out of repair. It has a very indifferent bridge over the *Rother*, a rapid river, which divides at this place *Kent* from *Suffex*, and about nine miles off empties itself into the harbour of *Rye*. *Roman* coins have been dug up here.

North-west of *Newendon* is *Cranbrook*, a market-town, noted for having been one of the first places where the cloth-manufacture was set up in *England*; and adjoining to it is a seat and park of the present duke of *St. Albans*.

LETTER IV.

*Containing a DESCRIPTION of the County of SUSSEX,
other Parts of KENT, and Part of HANTS,
SURREY, &c.*

INOW enter the county of *Suffex*, and shall begin with an account of *Rye*.

It is situated in the most eastern part of *Suffex*, upon an hill, which is encompassed with rocks, that are inaccessible on the sea-side. There is nothing now, but some remains of its old walls, to be seen, and the ditches are almost filled up. Its trade is in hops, wool, timber, kettles, cannon, chimney-backs, &c. which are cast at the iron-works at *Bakely*, about four miles from *Rye*, on the north-west, and *Breed*, about five miles distant south-west. It is a very great misfortune, that its harbour has been so much damaged by the sea, and neglected; for it is almost filled up in several places, where it was formerly the deepest and most convenient. Some considerable families, who have lands near, have taken advantage of this, to extend them farther upon those sands, which the sea in storms has thrown up against them; and by digging ditches, and making drains, there are now fields and meadows, where anciently was nothing but water. By this means, ships only of a middle size can come within any convenient distance of the town; whereas formerly the largest vessels, and even whole fleets together, could anchor just by the rocks, on which the town stands: and as this port lies over-against *Dieppe* in *France*, and there is no other port between *Portsmouth* and *Dover*, which can receive ships of burden, not only the dangers of the sea, but,

in time of war, of the enemy, were escaped by the conveniency of this harbour. But it being by the means I have mentioned, and by the innig of the channel and waste lands (which prevented the flux and reflux of the tide) in danger of being utterly lost, several acts of parliament have passed, in order, as much as possible, to remove these impediments.

The houses of *Rye* are well-enough built, and of brick, though generally old-fashioned; but there are some very neat ones of a modern taste. There is a small settlement of *French* refugees in this town, mostly fishermen, who have a minister of their own. Archbishop *Wake* was intrusted by the king with money for the relief of refugees, and it is probable that the minister here might be paid out of this fund. The church is handsome and large; but there are so many dissenters in the town, and so few of the established church, that they have walled off, and converted the western part of it into a magazine for planks. But there are two well-built meeting-houses, one for the presbyterians, the other for the quakers. Another church, which belonged to a monastery now demolished, is also turned into a kind of storehouse for planks, hops, and other merchandise. At the north-east of *Rye* are the remains of an old fort, which commands the town and harbour, and serves for the town-gaol.

The corporation, which is only by prescription, consists of a mayor, 12 jurats, and the freemen. Here is a free grammar-school, which was erected, in 1644, by Mr. *Peacock*, one of the jurats, who also endowed it with 32*l.* a year, for teaching all the children of the town.

Old Winchelsea stood upon the sea-shore, about two or three miles from the place where the *New* stands. It had formerly a large and spacious harbour, was a place of great trade, and had no less than 18 churches

in

in it. But it was entirely destroyed by the sea, and that small part which is not buried in the sands, is now marsh and meadow-land. To the S. W. of Rye, and the N. E. of *New Winchelsea*, is still to be seen, in the midst of a large plain, an old tower, which probably stood by the sea.

New Winchelsea is said to have been built by king Edward I. partly on an hill about two miles from the *Old*, and the like distance from *Rye*, and partly in a little valley, where it had an harbour; but, anno 1250, the latter part of this met with the same fate as the former. It never was comparable to the old town, having but three parish-churches when it most flourished; and now there only remains the chancel of one, which is more than large enough for the inhabitants. But yet the town was every where accommodated with fine stone arched vaults, which were commodious for the cambrick manufactory, and induced some gentlemen in *London* (who had formed a design to introduce that branch of trade into *England*) to establish it here, which was begun, but soon declined. Some of the stone-work of the three gates is still to be seen. The sea is now above a mile distant from it, the harbour being choaked up with sands; and grass grows, not only where the harbour was, but even in the streets; and indeed there are only a few houses remaining in the upper part of the town. Among the ruins of the walls to the S. E. are the remains of a castle, as some say; or of a monastery, as others will have it.

Winchelsea furnished the fleet of *Edward III.* with 21 ships, and 596 seamen. *Henry VIII.* for the protection of it, built *Camber Castle*, at the expence of 23,000*l.* which, even in the purse of the crown, was no inconsiderable sum in those days.

Hastings is the chief of the five *einque-ports*, and, with its two members above, was obliged to furnish the

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the king with 20 ships for any naval expedition, in recompence for the ample immunities it enjoyed, as one of the five ports. It is about eight miles from *Winchelsea*. It consists of two great streets, with a parish-church in each, and several good houses; but its harbour, formerly so famous, is now a poor road for small vessels, having been ruined by the storms, which from time to time have been so fatal to its neighbouring ports of *Rye* and *Winchelsea*. We saw here the ruins of an ancient castle; and, about three miles off, *Bull-hide Haven*, where *William the Norman* is said to have landed upon his invasion of *England*; though some say it was at *Hastings*, and others at *Pevensey*, an harbour more westward, which has likewise been destroyed by the sea. But, be that as it will, it was at *Hastings* that he mustered his army, after he had burnt his ships, being determined to conquer or perish in the attempt; or rather, as another author has observed, that he might not be obliged to divide his army, which must have been the case, if he had preserved his ships; and probably, while he made an advance into the country, at the head of part of his army, *Harold* might have stepped in between, and cut off those who were left to guard the ships, and then with more ease have attacked, and perhaps beat, that part commanded by the *Norman* himself.

The decisive battle which he fought, anno 1066, with king *Harold*, was upon a plain called *Heathfield*, about seven miles from *Hastings**. In the place where *Harold's* body was found, the *Norman* instituted an abbey of *Benedictine* monks, dedicating it to *St. Martin*; and from the fight aforesaid, it is called *Battle-abbey*; and soon drew to it, by a fair

* King *Harold* had hurried from *Stamford Bridge* in *Yorkshire*, where he had defeated the king of *Norway*; but was here forced to yield victory, crown, and life, to a more fortunate invader.

held

held every *Sunday* and holiday, such a resort, that it became an handsome town. It still retains the name of *Battle*, and some remains of the abbey are yet to be seen, and make part of the house of the lord viscount *Montacute*.

A little beyond *Hastings* to *Bourn*, we rode upon the sands in a straight line for 18 miles, all upon the coast of *Suffex*, passing by *Pemsey* or *Pevensey Haven* afore mentioned, and the mouth of the river, which comes from *Battle*, without so much as knowing that there was a river, the tide being out, and all the water sinking away in the sands. This town of *Battle* is remarkable for little now, but making gunpowder, and the best perhaps in *Europe*. Near *Battle* they shew us an hill with a beacon upon it, now called *Beacon-hill*, but was formerly called *Standard-hill*; where the *Norman* set up his great standard of defiance, the day before the decisive battle with *Harold* and the *English*.

From the beginning of *Romney-marsh*, that is to say, at *Sandgate* or *Sandfoot-castle*, near *Hythe*, to this place, the country is a rich fertile soil, full of feeding grounds; and an incredible number of large sheep are fed every year upon them, and sent up to *London* market.

Besides the vast flocks of sheep, as above, abundance of large bullocks are fed in this part of the country; and especially those they call stalled or house-fed oxen, from their being kept within the farmers sheds or yards all the latter season, where they are fed for the winter-market, and generally deemed the largest beef in *England*.

In *Romney marsh*, as in other parts of *England*, are found great timber-trees, lying at length under ground, as black as ebony, and fit for use, when dried in the sun.

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From hence it was that, turning north, and traversing the deep, dirty, but rich part of these two counties, my curiosity led me to see the great foundries, or iron-works, which are in this county, and where they are carried on at such a prodigious expence of wood, that, even in a country almost all over-run with timber, they begin to complain of the great consumption of it by those furnaces, and the apprehension of leaving the next age to want timber for building their navies.

After I had been fatigued in passing this deep and heavy part of the country, I thought it would not be foreign to my design, if I refreshed myself with a view of *Tunbridge-wells*, which were not then above 12 miles out of my way.

Tunbridge-wells, remarkable for their chalybeate springs, and the resort of company during the summer months, is about five miles from the town of the same name. They are situate in a small valley, through which runs a small stream which divides Kent from *Sussex*. They might, with more propriety, be called *Spelhurst-wells*, as they rise in the parish of that name. To this place great numbers resort for health, and, perhaps, more for pleasure, as it is well calculated for both. Accommodations of every kind are prepared for the reception of company. Immediately adjoining to the wells are many good houses, the assembly rooms, coffee-house, circulating library, and taverns, and shops of all denominations, the latter of which are ranged on one side of a walk called the *Pantiles*, from its pavement, and whose opposite side is shaded with lime trees; and before the shops, along the whole of the building, is a projecting colonade, which serves as a protection against unfavourable weather. Here the company resort during the time of water-drinking, which

which is before breakfast, and at noon, and also in the evening previous to the balls, concerts, or card-assemblies. Among the many shops whose commodities are exhibited to allure, are those which sell the ware peculiar to this place, called the *Tunbridge Ware*. It is chiefly of maple, holly, and such woods, that the turners of this place make their different toys. I have seen tea-chests, dressing-boxes, &c. of this manufacture, which would have been considered as extremely beautiful, and purchased at no little cost, if they had been the produce of *Bengal* or *China*.

The two hills which rise immediately from the wells are called *Mount Sion* and *Mount Ephraim*, where a great many convenient and very pleasant houses have been built, for the accommodation of families resorting hither. The air is excellent, and there is plenty of provisions. Here the small bird called the *Wheat-ear*, and by some the *English Ortolan*, brought from the south downs near *Lewes* in *Sussex*, is to be had in great perfection. There is a commodious chapel, whose minister is supported by the voluntary contributions of the company; and a dissenting meeting-house, whose pastor receives his principal support from the same source. Lady *Huntingdon*, whose zeal is well known, has also built a very elegant chapel at this place, to check, by the power of her preachers, the reigning influence of dissipation, which public places are, I must own, very much calculated to encrease.

This little place possesses a singular and romantic appearance. By the side of the road, descending from *Mount Ephraim*, are some projecting rocks of a very considerable size; but about two miles from the wells, in a very retired and tranquil spot, there is a very considerable clustre of them, that form a grand and affecting object. Beneath the shade which

this

this rocky pile casts over the adjacent meadow, or in the interstices of them, companies from the wells frequently enjoy their breakfasting and tea-drinking parties in great luxury.

It may not be improper to remark, that cheapness is by no means a characteristic of this place; which, however, may in some degree be excused, by the consideration that the season does not last more than three months; and that during the rest of the year the place is entirely deserted; though it may possibly receive some small advantage from a turnpike-road which is now made to pass through it to *Lewes* and *Brightelmstone*, in *Sussex*.

Between this place and the town of *Tunbridge*, about one mile to the left, is *Penshurst*, the seat of Mrs. *Perry*, which was the mansion of the *Sidney* family. It was the scene of sir *Philip Sidney*'s poetic dreams; and has since heard the warblings of the poet *Waller* in praise of his *Sacharissa*, who was an inhabitant of it, and whose picture is still preserved. It is a noble old structure, and, though its park is greatly diminished by enclosures, still retains much of its ancient beauty and magnificence.

Tunbridge is a market-town, situate upon the river *Tunn*, which runs almost immediately into the *Medway*. On the southern bank of the river are to be seen the ruins of an old castle, built by a natural son of *Richard I.* duke of *Normandy*, who, according to *Camden*, exchanged his lordship of *Bryany* in that dutchy, for *Tunbridge*. The church is a modern building, but the houses are ill-built. There is a considerable free-school, founded by sir *Andrew Judd*, lord mayor of *London*, and left by him to the direction of the *Skinner's company*.

From hence, I made an excursion to *Sevenoaks*, a small market-town about seven miles distance, so-called from *seven* large oaks which grew near the place.

place. It has an hospital for maintaining and teaching poor children, erected by sir *William Sevenoak*, lord mayor of *London*, who was a foundling, and took his name from this town. Almost adjoining, I saw *Knowle*, the antient and magnificent seat of the duke of *Dorset*. It is situate in the middle of a very large park, remarkable for its fine woods and spreading beeches, nor is it deficient in beautiful varieties of hill and dale, and extensive prospects. Indeed this place is almost encircled with seats of the nobility and gentry. The duke of *Argyle*, the lords *Stanhope* and *Amherst*, sir *Charles Farnaby*, Mr. *Evelyn*, and many others, have added greatly to the beauty of its environs by their buildings and plantations.

Returning by *Tunbridge*, I re-entered *Sussex* at *Lewes*, through the deepest, dirtiest, but in many respects the richest and most profitable country in all that part of *England*.

The timber I saw here was prodigious, as well for size as plenty; and seemed in some places suffered to grow, only because it was so far off any navigation that it was not worth carrying away. In dry summers, indeed, a great deal is carried to *Maidstone*, and other places on the *Medway*; and sometimes I have seen one tree on a carriage, which they call a *tug*, drawn by 22 oxen; and even then it is carried so little a way (being thrown down, and left for other *tugs* to take up, and carry on), that sometimes it is two or three years before it gets to *Chatham*; for if once the rains begin, it stirs no more that year; and sometimes a whole summer is not dry enough to make the roads passable.

Lewes is a pleasant town, (50 measured miles from *London*) large, well-built, agreeably situated in the middle of an open champaign country, and on the edge of the *South-downs*, the most delightful of their kind

kind in the nation; it lies on the bank of a little wholesome fresh river, within eight miles of the sea, and was formerly encompassed with a wall; but there are few remains of it now to be seen. But what contributes to the advantage of this town is, that both it, and the country adjacent, are full of the seats of gentlemen of good families and fortune; of which the *Pelhams* must be named with the first, whose chief, at present, is *Thomas lord Pelham*. Here are also the ancient families of *Gage*, *Shelly*, &c. formerly Roman-catholics, but now protestants, with many others. *Lewes* returns two members to parliament. It has six churches in it, four in the town, and two in the suburbs; there is also a very pretty town house new-built of brick. It has no manufactory, though it stands very convenient for trade, and has a river navigable for flat-bottomed boats from *Newhaven*. The river is called the *Ouze*, and is navigable five miles higher than this town. Near it is an old demolished castle, in the neighbourhood of which was fought that bloody battle between king *Henry III.* and his barons; the event of which constrained the king to accept of hard conditions of peace, and to give his son as an hostage for performance. The castle is lately repaired, and there are now several handsome rooms in it. Here are likewise several very good inns. The church in that part which is called *St. Thomas*, at *Cliff*, is reckoned one of the neatest parish-churches in the whole county; its altar is remarkably pretty; it has two pillars in the middle, between which are the ten commandments, and two pilasters on the outside, all in the Doric order, with architrave, cornish, and frize, neatly carved and gilt, and between the pillar and pilaster on the north side, the Lord's prayer, and on the south side, between the other pillar and pilaster,

pilaster, the creed. It is exceedingly well pewed, and has a small gilt organ.

Seaford, in the neighbourhood of *Lewes*, enjoys the privilege of sending two representatives to parliament, as one of the members of the cinque-ports.

I ought not to forget, that *Newhaven*, also in this neighbourhood, was formerly noted for its safe and good harbour for ships of considerable burden; but, for want of a provision for maintaining the timber piers, which it had for time immemorial, it was quite neglected, the harbour choaked up with sand and beach, and the piers were rotten and decayed. To remedy these evils, an act passed, anno 1731, for repairing, and keeping in repair, the said piers and harbour; and this is so far brought to effect, that it became very thriving both in commerce and ship-building. Small vessels of different sizes are built here, and in proportion as the port improves, its trade will increase.

From *Lewes*, following still the range of the *South-downs*, west, we ride in view of the sea, and on a fine carpet ground, for about 12 miles, to *Brightelmstone*, a sea-port, situated at the bottom of a bay, formed by *Beachey-Head* to the east, and to the west by *Worthing-Point*. The town stands upon a rising ground, open to the S. E. and sheltered to the north, by hills that are easy of ascent, and command a pleasant prospect. To the west it is bounded by a large corn-field, which forms a gradual descent from the beach to the banks of the sea, and on the east by a fine lawn, called the *Steine*, which is the resort of the company for walking in an evening, and which runs winding up into the country, among hills, to the distance of some miles. The town is built in a quadrangular form, and the streets are at right angles with each other: they are six in number, besides many lanes and squares; many of the houses

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are of flint, and the windows and doors frequently of brick-work. *Brightelmstone* is now become a polite place, by the annual resort of the gentry in the summer season, as being the nearest sea-port to *London*, and very convenient for sea-bathing; for the accommodation of whom there have been two handsome ball-rooms built, and several machines for bathing. The gentry may also have the use of two circulating libraries, by which means some of the inhabitants have of late years been greatly benefited, and the provisions in that neighbourhood greatly advanced in their price; while other families who received no advantages from the resort of company, have, from the increased price of provisions, been materially injured. The men of this town are wholly employed in fishing, and the women in making their nets; so that it is an excellent nursery for seamen. It is 57 miles distant from *London*. Hence again (as I mentioned at *Folkestone* and *Dover*) the fishermen, having large barks, go away to *Tarmouth*, on the coast of *Norfolk*, to the fishing-fair there, and hire themselves out for the seamen to catch herrings for the merchants; and they tell us, that these make a very good business of it. For some years past, no inconsiderable advantage has arisen to this town from the pacquets, which sail from hence every week to *Dieppe* in *Normandy*; and to those who are not afraid of the sea, for the passage is upwards of twenty leagues, it is a nearer and much cheaper route to *Paris* than by the way of *Calais* *.

* The road from *Brightelmstone* to *Steyning* commands to the right, at one spot, a most amazing view of the lower country: you look down the steep of a hill into the wild, quite in another region beneath you: a vast range of many miles of inclosures are seen on the flat, quite rich in verdure and wood. It is walled-in by the sweeps of bare hills, proceeding in the boldest manner: a view uncommonly striking.

From hence, still keeping the coast on the left, we come to *Shoreham*, a town chiefly inhabited by ship-carpenters, ship-chandlers, and all the several trades depending upon the building and fitting up of ships, which is their chief business. It stands at the mouth of the *Alder*. Vessels of a large size, some for the use of the navy, but most for the merchants service, are here constructed. The demand of late for these is so great, and the people so industrious, that it is asserted, there is sometimes not so much as a single person who receives alms; a circumstance worthy not only of praise, but of imitation. *Shoreham* is justly noted for sailors, and for neat and stout sea-boats.

The builders of ships seem to have settled here chiefly, because of the quantity and cheapness of timber in the country behind them; being the same wooded country I mentioned above, which still continues through this county and the next. The river this town stands upon, though not navigable for large vessels, yet serves to bring down this large timber in floats from *Bramber*, *Steyning*, and the country adjacent.

The navigation through the present entrance into the harbour of *New Shoreham*, being become dangerous, an act passed in the year 1760, for erecting piers, and other works, for the security and improvement of it, and for keeping the same in repair, and to empower commissioners named in it, or any eleven of them, at any time after the first day of July, in the said year 1760, to make a new cut through the sea-beach, opposite to the village, called *Kingston-by-Sea*, about a mile to the eastward of the town, and to erect a pier or piers, and to do such other works as shall be necessary, in order to make and maintain a new and more commodious entrance into the said harbour.

Shoreham is a borough-town, which sends two members to parliament; the election is in the inhabitants who pay scot and bear lot in the said parish. There is no manufactory, nor free-school; it is about 57 measured miles from *London*: its market is on *Saturday*, principally for corn by sample, and particularly for malt for exportation; and it has a fair, July 25, for pedlary. There are here good oysters and flounders caught for the consumption of the inhabitants. The number of votes are about 130. It has a market-place standing on *Doric* pillars; there is an old piece of a wall still standing in the church-yard, which was formerly a part of the church.

Here, in the compass of about six miles, are three borough-towns, which send members to parliament, viz. *Shoreham*, *Bramber*, and *Steyning*.

The chief house in the town of *Bramber*, when I was there, was a publick-house, the landlord whereof stated, that, upon an election just then over, he had made 300*l.* of one pipe of canary.

The castle of *Bramber*, however, appears to have been a place of strength. There is, besides part of the outward wall, one side of a tower of great height now remaining; and it is surprising it does not tumble down with the first high wind. It is most beautifully covered with ivy, and is a fine object viewed at a distance from the hills.

This is not the only town in this county, where elections have been scandalously mercenary, insomuch that it has been said, there was, in one king's reign, more money spent at elections than all the lands in the parishes were worth, at 20 years purchase.

Bramber is a borough election, by every inhabitant paying scot and lot, but has no market.

Steyning is a borough-town, and has a market once a month, on the second *Wednesday*.

S U S S E X.

I shall name in particular but one more, and that is *Winchelsea*; which is rather the skeleton of an ancient city, than a real town, where the old gates stand near three miles from one another over the fields, and the very ruins are so buried, that they have made good corn-fields of the streets, and the plough goes over the foundations, nay, over the first floors of the houses, and where nothing of a town seems to remain: yet, at one election for members, the struggle was such, between sir *John Banks*, and colonel *Draper*, a neighbouring gentleman, that I was assured the latter spent 11,000*l.* and lost it too. What the other spent, who opposed him, may be guessed at, seeing he who spent most was almost sure to carry his election*.

Near *Steyning*, the family of *Fagg* had an ancient seat, which went, with a daughter of the late sir *Robert Fagg*, to sir *Charles Goring*. And thence, passing by the seat of sir *John Shelly*, prettily situated in the middle of a grove, we come to *Arundel*, a little market-town; it has two markets, *Thursday* and *Saturdays*; and four fairs; *May 14*, *August 21*, and *December 15*, for cattle; and *December 17*, for cattle and pedlary. It is also a borough, and send-

* I cannot here help adding, that, since the representatives of the people have the important charge of watching over the preservation of our liberties, our trade, and our property, what care ought every county, city, and borough, to take, to choose only such as are qualified for performing this important task; for choosing such whose integrity will render them superior to the temptations of a bribe, whose wisdom is capable of managing our interests, and whose greatness of soul will make them think, that they can never do too much for their country, and for their constituents! He who parts with his vote, in for a lucrative or selfish consideration, is instrumental in choosing one whom his conscience disapproves, and who is unqualified or corrupt, a fool and a madman; is unworthy the name of a Freeman, since he as much as is in his power, sells himself and his country, and can never have the least reason to complain, if he should live to see the happy constitution overturned, and our liberties and all our privileges destroyed.

two members to parliament : the right of vote is in the persons who pay scot and bear their lot in this town, which may be about 160. There is here a small manufactory in hop-bagging. It is 55 measured miles from *London*, and stands near the mouth of the river *Arun*, which heretofore had a good harbour, called *Arundel Port*, or the harbour of *Little Hampton*, capable of receiving ships and vessels of a considerable burthen; but, a beach being thrown up by the sea, it was quite choaked up, and the navigation of the *Arun* obstructed, so that the harbour was rendered in a manner useless. But in consequence of an act, passed in 1733, two piers have been erected, which by confining the channel of the river have deepened and made it accessible to large coasters. *Little Hampton*, though at present an inconsiderable village, is likely to grow opulent by the accession of company, who resort hither to bathe in the summer months; the beach, being well adapted to that purpose, and affording a very extensive and pleasant ride after the recess of the tide.

One great advantage to the country, from this river, is the shipping off great quantities of large timber here; which is carried up the *Thames* to *Fowwich* and *Deptford*, and up the *Medway* to *Chatham*; as also westward to *Portsmouth*, and even to *Plymouth*, and indeed to all the king's yards, where the business of the navy is carried on. The timber produced here is esteemed the best and largest that is brought by sea from any part of *England*; also great quantities of knee-timber are had here, the largest of which is valuable in its kind above the straight timber.

This river, and the old, decayed, once famous castle at *Arundel*, which has the privilege to give its possessor the title of an earl and peer of the realm without creation, belongs to the noble

family of *Howard*, earls of *Arundel*, and dukes of *Norfolk*. In the church are four old and stately monuments of the earls of *Arundel*; and in this river are caught the best and largest mullets in *England*; a fish very good in itself, and much valued by the gentry round, and often sent up to *London*. This castle was probably one of the strongest in *England*, both from its structure and situation. To the south, it is guarded from approach by the steepness of the hill on which it stands; and on this side the windows command a very fine view of the vale through which the *Arun* meanders; on the north-west, which is flanked by a very deep fosse, is the citadel, erected on another and smaller hill, which overlooks the castle: many of the antient buildings have mouldered into ruin; but there are still the vestiges of a very large and elegant banqueting hall, and the gateway is in a tolerable state of preservation. It was here the empress *Maud* took refuge. Most of the poorer inhabitants hereabouts are Roman Catholics, whose want of industry, although it is said to throw a very heavy tax on the benevolent spirit of the present duke, is too conspicuous in the misery of their appearance. The chapel within the castle, which is attended by a *Romish* priest maintained by his grace for the purpose, is neat, and decorated with a very beautiful altar-piece, painted by a capital artist.

From hence to the city of *Chichester* are 12 of the most pleasant and delightful miles in *England*. The road through which, although formed by statute-labour, is equal in goodness to most turnpikes in *England*; and on one side of it, about 4 miles from *Arundel*, is the seat of lord *Newberg*, remarkable chiefly for the noble prospect it commands. It has some genteel families; and to the north of *Arundel*, and at the bottom of the hills, and consequently in

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the *Weald*, is the town of *Petworth*, a populous market-town; it stands upon an ascent, and is dry and healthy, with well-built houses, both in the town and neighbourhood; but the beauty of *Petworth* is the ancient seat of the old family of *Percy*, earl of *Northumberland*, whose daughter, the sole heiress of all his vast estates, married *Charles Seymour*, duke of *Somerset*; and among other noble seats brought his grace this of *Petworth*. It is now the seat of the earl of *Egremont*, great grandson of the said duke, by his second daughter, lady *Catharine Seymour*.

The duke pulled down the ancient house, and on the same spot built from the ground one of the best-modelled houses then in *Britain*.

The apartments are very noble, well-contrived, and richly furnished; but the avenues to the front want space: hence the front has the appearance of being too long, and unbroken, although if the ground could have admitted of a gradual approach towards it through an avenue, the effect would be equally magnificent, and elegant. The dispositions within merit both these characters, and all the principal apartments are furnished with antique statues, and busts, some of which are of the first-rate value; a singular circumstance attending them is, that a great many, when the late earl bought them, were compleat invalids; some wanting heads, others hands, feet, noses, &c. These mutilations his lordship endeavoured to supply, by the application of new members, very ill suited either in complexion, or elegance of finishing, to the *Roman* and *Grecian* trunks; so that, in some respects, this stately fabric gives us the idea of a large hospital or receptacle for wounded and disabled statues.

From *Petworth* west, the country is a little less woody than the *Weald*; and, after ascending the *South Downs*, a great many fine seats begin to shew

their heads above the trees ; as the duke of *Richmond* : seat at *Goodwood*, near *Chichester* ; the seats of sir *Harry Featherstone*, and of the late earl of *Halifax*.

But the seat of lord viscount *Montagu*, called *Cowdrey*, near *Midhurst*, which sends two members to parliament, deserves particular notice. It is situated in a valley, encompassed with lawns, hills, and woods, thrown into a park, the river running underneath, which renders the place very agreeable in summer, but makes it dampish in winter. The house is square, and at each corner is a Gothic tower, which have a very good effect, when viewed from the rising grounds. The hall is ciel'd with Irish oak, after the ancient manner. The walls are painted with architecture by *Robert*, the statues by *Goupi*, the stair-case by *Pellegrini*. The large parlour, or room at the hall, is of *Holbein*'s painting ; where that great artist has described the exploits of king *Henry VIII.* before *Boulogne*, *Calais*, his landing at *Portsmouth*, his magnificent entry into *London*, &c. In the other rooms are many excellent pictures of the ancestors of the family, and other history-paintings of *Holbein*, relating to their actions in war. The rooms are stately and well-furnished, adorned with many pictures. There is a long gallery with the 12 apostles, as large as life ; another very neat one, wainscoted with *Norway* oak, where are many ancient whole-length pictures of the family, in their proper habits. There are four history-pieces, two copies of *Raphael*'s marriage of *Cupid* and *Psyche*, and several old religious and military paintings from *Battle-abbey*.

The park is noble, having a great variety of grounds in it, abounding with game, and is well wooded with pines, firs, and other evergreen-trees, which are grown to a large size ; and here are some

of the largest chesnut-trees perhaps in *England*. The river *Arum*, gliding by *Midhurst*, sweeps through the park, and promotes a constant verdure. The country adjacent serves a contrast to this beautiful scenery, by its barrenness; some efforts, however, which his lordship has made by fir plantations, may evince, that the most sterile soil, and dreary region, is capable of receiving embellishment. But the situation lying all along between two ridges of downs and hills on the north, and south, these eternal barriers exclude all extensive prospect, so that the view is rather confined.

Chichester is a neat city, walled round. The river *Lavant* nearly encircles the walls which are of great antiquity. Four principal streets cross it at right angles upon the cardinal points. In the centre stands a curious cross, and market-house upon pillars, erected by bishop *Read*; three of them have a view of the cross from their lower ends, viz. the south, west, and east streets; but the north street, being not directly facing the south, has not the advantage of this prospect. On this cross, which is an octagon with a large pillar in the middle, from which are sprung eight different arches, there are three dials to the clock; that facing the east has a minute-hand. There is no dial to the north, as that side of the cross is not seen from the north street. On the west side of this cross is the following inscription:

This beautiful cross, erected by *Edward Story*, bishop of *Chichester*, who was advanced to that dignity by *Edward the IVth*. 1478, was first repaired in the reign of *Charles the IIId.* and again in the twentieth of *George the IIId.* 1746, *Thomas Wall*, mayor, at the sole expence of *Charles duke of Richmond, Lenox, and Aubigny*.

And on the south side the following :

Dame *Elizabeth Farrington*, relict of sir *Richard Farrington*, baronet, gave this clock as an hourly memento of her good-will to this city, 1724.

And on the east fide, in a niche, is a bust of king *Charles the 1st*.

Here is a handsome council-house; the market for corn is principally by sample, and is on a *Saturday*; and every other *Wednesday* is a large market for live cattle, almost like a fair.

A carpet manufactory, like that of *Wilton*, was once attempted here, but was soon laid aside; another of needles met with the same fate. The inequality of the river, which often loses its water for whole months together, will prevent the establishment here of any manufactory, which depends upon the convenience of water either for bleaching, ducking, or machinery: and the same defect renders an artificial navigation impracticable from the harbour to the city, which is an improvement that has sometimes been in contemplation, and for which an act of parliament was actually obtained many years ago. It must therefore continue to owe its support to the residence of the cathedral, clergy, and of several genteel families living here in a sort of retirement, and spending their incomes; and to the numerous shops which occupy the greatest part of this city, and supply the farmers and others in the neighbourhood with materials for their husbandry, cloathing, &c. chiefly brought from *London*, which, of course, draws every year a large balance in money from it. It is 63 miles from *London*. The principal inns are, the *Dolphin*, the *Swan*, and the *Bell*.

The church takes up one of these quadrants. It is remarkable for two aisles on both sides, and the pictures of all the kings and queens of *England* from *William*

William the Conqueror to George the Ist. On the southern wall, as on the opposite wall, all the bishops, but very indifferently execued.

The monuments of bishop Carleton and bishop King are in this church, whose effigies are curiously done in marble. One of the greatest ornaments belonging to this cathedral is the library-room, antiently a chapel, which has a well-chosen and valuable collection of books, enriched by the donations of the late and present duke of Richmond, and others. The cieling is painted much in the same manner as that belonging to the knights in *Westminster Abbey*. Underneath, is a vault extending the whole length of the building, and here are deposited the remains of the late duke of Richmond, and many of his illustrious family.

In the year 1723, in digging a foundation at Chichester, was found, pretty deep in the ground, a large stone, six feet long and three broad, with a *Roman* inscription on it.

This stone was presented to the late duke of Richmond, who placed it in a temple on a mount in his garden at Goodwood, between the statues of Neptune and Minerva.

In the bishop's garden has been likewise discovered, at the depth of six or eight feet, a *Roman* tessellated pavement in tolerable preservation; and vast abundance of *Roman* coins, chiefly of copper and brass, have been found in different parts of the city, and in a large common field without the east gate, called *The Pottfield*; most of them of the later emperors. The whole space, for about 4 miles, between the city and the downs, is intersected with several lines or intrenchments, formed with the utmost regularity, and continuing their communication to an eminence called *Rook's Hill* (close by the *London* road) on the summit of which are remains of a very extensive camp, supposed by some to be *Danish*, but more

probably of *Roman* construction, as it is well known, that their summer-encampments were usually formed in similar situations, of which are many examples in this kingdom. The lines which spread across the more level country below, might probably answer two very material purposes, either for defence of the city, or as winter-roads for the marching of their troops, the adjacent soil for the most part being full of springs at that season of the year. Most of these lines are terminated at proper distances with redoubts, and from their present height it may be conjectured they were originally exceedingly strong, and formed by the military with infinite labour, there being a prodigious number of large and deep excavations adjacent to them, out of which the gravel and soil appear to have been dug, and carried to form them.

This city returns two members to parliament. It is not a place of much trade, nor is it very populous; but within these few years they are fallen into a new way of managing the corn-trade here, which turns very well to account; for whereas the farmers, generally speaking, used to carry all their wheat to *Farnham* market, which is very near 40 miles, by land-carriage, and from some parts of the country more than that, some moneyed men of *Chichester*, *Emsworth*, and other places adjacent, joined their flocks together, and built large granaries near the *Crook*, where the vessels come up; and here they buy and lay up all the corn which the country on that side can spare; and, having good mills in the neighbourhood, they grind and dress it, and send it to *London* in the meal by sea.

This is a great lessening to *Farnham* market; but if the market at *London* is supplied, the coming by sea from *Chichester* is every whit as much a public good, as the encouraging of *Farnham* market, which

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was once, of itself, the greatest corn-market in England, *Hempsted* in *Hertfordshire*, and *London*, excepted. This carrying of meal by sea is now practised from several other places on this coast, even as far as *Southampton*.

Chichester, besides the cathedral, has five small churches within the walls, and one without. About three miles from it is the house of his grace the duke of *Richmond*, called *Goodwood*. It was the ancient seat of the earls of *Northumberland*, and in a very ruinous condition; but the late duke of *Richmond* built some offices, which were to have corresponded with a mansion-house designed by *Colin Campbell*, and published by him in his *Vitruvius Britannicus*. But the late duke, a little before his death, altered his design, and built a noble apartment on the south-side of the house, cased with *Portland stone*, which was to have been one of the wings to the house his grace proposed to erect, had he lived a few years longer. His present grace, without adhering strictly to the plan, is adding other improvements, under the direction of that excellent artist Mr. *Wyatt*, which, when compleated, will render it a very noble and magnificent seat.

His grace had a noble *menagerie*, where he kept a great variety of foreign animals and birds. The park was small, but planted with clumps of several sorts of oaks, to the west and north of the house; but on the east and south-side are clumps of the different sorts of pines and firs, and a variety of exotics, under the management of his present grace; it has been considerably enlarged by the addition of *Hahnacker-park*, and immense plantations of trees, traversed throughout with a variety of roads, and cuts, which afford the most delightful rides, a fine air, and lovely prospects, and the whole is designed

to be enclosed with a stone-wall, already carried on
for a considerable extent.

It has an easy descent to the east, south, and S. W. with the view of a rich and beautiful landscape, bounded by the sea, for 30 miles in length. The *Isle of Wight* terminates the south-west prospect, and *St. Rook's Hill* covers it from the north. His late grace erected a room on a rising ground, at the upper part of the park, called *Carney* seat, from whence is a view of the country for many miles, and a noble prospect of the sea, from the harbour of *Portsmouth* quite round by the *Isle of Wight*, many leagues out to sea. In this room the duke frequently entertained company at dinner, there being a good kitchen built near it, with many other conveniences; and adjacent to it is his grace's pheasantry, formed in a very romantic taste out of an old chalk-pit, and finely adorned with shrubberies and walks. At the very bottom of it stands an elegant summer-room highly finished, the front opening to a distant and very pleasing view; and behind rises its chimney to a great height, in the form of a regular column, which beheld from a distance adds greatly to the beauty of the park and grounds.

Near *Goodwood* is *Halnaker*, formerly in the possession of the *Delawars*; but since purchased from the *Derby* family by his present grace. The house is the remains of an ancient castle, built quadrangular, with a court-yard in the centre, but has otherwise nothing remarkable about it; nor is the situation at all well chosen, though, at the distance of about 100 yards from it, is a spot which commands one of the finest prospects imaginable.—In the disposition of his new and enlarged park, his grace seems intent on uniting the pleasurable with the profitable; a great part being allotted to agriculture, which introduces an elegant variety into the landscape. Contiguous

to the old park are his grace's tennis-court, commodiously built at a great expence, and very extensive fruit and flower gardens, which, though a force upon nature (the soil being a coarse gravel, and perfectly sterile) is now, by art and the introduction of good mould, made productive of fruit and vegetables in the highest state of perfection.

The situation of *Chichester* may be reckoned pleasant and healthy. Towards the north it is distant about three miles and a half from the *Downs*, and the soil on this side is mostly a coarse gravel, lying to the depth of 18 or 20 feet upon a chalky marle; to the east and west the country is one continued champaign; and to the south the descent is gradual for seven miles to the sea; so that from whatever quarter the wind blows, it is sure to be ventilated without interruption. The land on the south of it is a rich deep mould for some miles, affording the richest pasture; all beyond this to the coast is a clay, which is converted for the most part to arable, and esteemed as fine corn-ground as any in the kingdom. Another circumstance, conducive to the health of the inhabitants, is the regularity of the streets, and which are now much more airy than heretofore, by pulling down the north, south, and west gates, that used to obstruct the wind; so that it is thought, and not without good reason, that this improvement has been one chief means of producing a greater and more general salubrity than was remarked before; besides, the houses do not crowd upon each other as in most other towns, but have large areas and gardens, there being very few, even of the meanest, without this convenience; and in each of the four divisions is a large space of ground unoccupied by any building. The air might still admit of greater purity, it is thought, if a long row of stately elms, which grow along the side of the north rampart (forming a shady and

and agreeable walk in summer), was cut down, since it is certain that they are a skreen against the winds which set from that quarter. And if to this were added a few gravel-walks at a place called the *Broil*, situate about half a mile without the *North-street*, on a rising ground, in order to afford the inhabitants the greater convenience of exercise; there are few places in the kingdom would be better adapted for an agreeable retreat to small families, whose incomes do not permit them to live in an expensive and dissipated style; for having a water carriage to *Dell Quay* within about a mile's distance, besides a land-carriage to *London*, the principal necessaries for a family are supplied at moderate terms. The adjacent country is very plentiful, and the vicinity of the sea would over-stock the fish-market, if it were not for the evil herein aftermentioned, and that *London* did not drain away from this part, as it does from most others lying within a similar distance, so much as to leave the inhabitants a very scanty portion: lobsters, however, oysters, and the cheaper species of fish, are in general abundant here, and cheap, and mostly brought from *Selsea*; but the smuggling business has been and is now the greatest obstacle to a better fishery on this coast. This circumstance is not properly adverted to by the inhabitants of the town, who do not consider, that by every pound of tea, or gallon of spirits, or yard of cambric, they purchase from a smuggler, they give that encouragement to the occupation itself, which makes it more profitable, and therefore more eligible to the maritime people, than catching fish for supplying the market.

About three miles to the east of *Goodwood* lies *Charleton*, a small village, remarkable for being the seat of fox-hunting. Hereabouts were many small hunting-houses built by persons of quality, who used to reside there during the season for fox-hunting;

but

but the most beautiful of these buildings is that of his grace the late duke of *Richmond*.

Here is also a large room, which was designed by the right honourable the earl of *Burlington*, where the gentlemen fox-hunters dined every day together, during their stay at the village.

By the side of this village is *Charleton Forest*, which was formerly in the possession of the *Lumleys*, but for some years has belonged to the late duke of *Richmond*, who greatly beautified it, by cutting fine ridings through the several parts of it, and making many new plantations in it.

About three miles from it is the parish-church of *Bosom*, which is a large handsome building. In it is a very ancient monument, with a female figure upon it, supposed to represent the daughter of king *Canute*. In digging not long ago in the church, was found the head of a man in stone. The sculpture of the hair and features is very discernible. From the chin to the crown are about 20 inches; and consequently the height of the whole body of the figure must have been about 15 feet. It is conjectured to have been one of the *Saxon* idols.

From *Chichester*, the road lying still west, we pass in sight of the earl of *Scarborough's* fine seat at *Stansted*, an house surrounded with thick woods, through which there are the most agreeable vistas cut that are to be seen any where in *England*; and particularly at the west opening, which is from the front of the house, they sit in the dining-room, and see the town and harbour of *Portsmouth*, the ships at *Spithead*, and also at *St. Helens*; which, when the royal navy happens to be there, is a glorious sight.

Stansted was the seat of the late honourable *James Lumley* esquire, who left it to his nephew the late earl of *Halifax*, by whose will it has become vested in *Miss Montague*, his lordship's natural daughter.

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The park is embellished with two buildings, both erected by the late earl. One is a temple called *Lumley Seat*, raised in grateful memory of the donor; it consists of a handsome saloon ornamented with paintings well executed: in front is a portico which carries the view across the park quite to the sea. The other building is a triangular tower or *gazebo*, consisting of several stories, and crowned at top with a flag-staff; from the leads of the upper story the eye takes in an unbounded prospect over that part of *Suffolk* which lies between the *Downs* and the coast to the east and south, and beyond the *Isle of Wight* to the westward, having a clear view of the *British Channel* in an uninterrupted line from point to point. The elegance however of this edifice is by no means proportionate to the prodigious expence which the raising of it cost his lordship; and, after all, there is so little variety in the prospect, after seeing what the house affords from its dining-room windows, that a traveler feels himself in no very good humour after tediously climbing up so many steps, and to such a height, to be rewarded for his pains with nothing but disappointment. The house alone will recompense his labours; for it contains a very excellent collection of pictures, some of which have been executed by masterly hands; particularly one of our Saviour after his resurrection shewing himself to his doubting disciples. Another, much admired, done by the famous *Blacksmith* of *Antwerp*; several beautiful landscapes, fruit-pieces, and portraits; among the latter, *Van Trump*, and *Gondamar* the Spanish ambassador, esteemed striking likenesses. Nor ought that elegant picture done by sir *Joshua Reynolds*, the subject Comedy and Tragedy, contending for the possession of *Garrick*, to pass unnoticed. In the upper apartments are some beautiful tapestry-hangings, representing different military scenes in *Flaniers* during the

the victorious duke of *Marlborough's* campaigns. The soil on which this house stands is so remarkably dry, that none of these paintings, or the furniture of the apartments, are ever affected with damps, nor are fires necessary in the winter to preserve them from it. It may therefore be concluded that few situations can be more eligible for health.

In our passage to *Portsmouth*, we passed by *Fareham*, and by *Portchester*, a castle built out of a *Roman*-city, where many of the *French* prisoners were secured during the time of the two late wars.

On the east-side of the harbour lies the island of *Portsea*, about 14 miles in compass, fertile in corn, and very pleasant, surrounded at high-water on all sides by the sea; but united to the continent at the northern extremity by *Port-bridge*, which was formerly defended by a fortress.

In *Portsmouth* haven 1000 sail of the biggest ships may ride secure. The mouth is not so broad as the *Thames* at *Westminster*, and that secured on *Gosport* side by *Charles Fort*, *James Fort*, *Borough Fort*, and *Block-house Fort*, which has a platform of above 20 great guns level with the water. On the other side, by *Portsmouth*, stands *South-sea Castle*, built by king *Henry VIII.* The government has within these few years bought, and annually occupied, more ground for additional works, and no doubt it may be made impregnable; for a shallow water may be brought quite round it. The yards, the docks, the store-houses, where all the furniture is laid up in the exactest order, (so that the workmen can find any implement in the dark) exceed imagination; as do the immense quantities of all sorts of military and naval stores. The ropehouse is 870 feet long, one continued room, almost a quarter of a mile. I had the pleasure of seeing a great cable made here, in my

my first visit to that place : it required 100 men to work at it ; and so hard is the labour, that they could work but four hours in the day.

The smallest number of men continually employed in the yard is 1000, and that but barely sufficient. These, in time of war, are disciplined and formed into a regiment, as they were in the last war : the commissioner is colonel ; the builder is lieutenant-colonel ; the clerk of the checque major ; and the rest of the officers, captains, lieutenants, &c.

Here is also a good counterscarp, double moat, with ravelins in the ditch, and double palisadoes, and advanced works, to cover the place from any approach, where it might be practicable. The strength of the town is also considerably augmented on the land-side, by the fortifications raised of late years about the docks and yards ; and those parts made a particular strength by themselves ; and though they are indeed in some sense independent one of another, yet they cover and strengthen one another, so that they cannot be separately attacked on that side, while they are both in the same hands.

These docks and yards are now like a town, and are a kind of marine corporation within themselves ; there being particular large rows of dwellings, built at the public charge, within the new works, for all the principal officers of the place ; especially for the commissioner, the agent of the victualing, and such like.

Portsmouth returns two members to parliament. It is a well-inhabited, thriving corporation ; and is greatly enriched by the fleet's having so often and so long lain there, as well as large fleets of merchantmen : besides, the constant fitting out of men of war, and the often paying them, at *Portsmouth*, has made a great concourse of people to it. *Camden*, so long ago as the reign of queen *Elizabeth*, takes no

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tice, that *Portsmouth* was populous in time of war, but not so in time of peace: but now the business of the navy is so greatly increased; and so much of it always done here, that it may be said, that there is more to do at *Portsmouth*, even in time of peace, than was then in time of war.

The government of the place is by a mayor and aldermen, &c. and the civil government is no more interrupted by the military, than if there was no garrison there; so that we have very seldom had any complaint either of want of discipline among the soldiers, or want of prudence in the magistrates. This place is vastly improved, by being new-paved like *London*.

Since the increase of business at this place, the confluence of people has been so great, that, the town not admitting any enlargement for buildings, a kind of suburb, or rather a new town, has been built on the healthy ground adjoining, called *The Common*, which is so considerable, that it promises to outdo, for numbers of inhabitants and beauty of buildings, even the town itself; and the rather, as it is unconfined by the laws of the garrison, and unincumbered with the corporation-badges, freedoms, town-duties, services, and the like.

July 3, 1760, at twelve in the morning, a dreadful fire broke out in the dock-yard of this place, in a fine pile of building that was filled with some of the best stores for his Majesty's navy; in the lower part of which were pitch, tar, oil, and turpentine; in the upper, cables, ropes, sails, and canvas. The next store-house was the spinning-house, and above it hemp. The next, where the bell stood, was a long lane, piled up with decayed stores; the next to that, were the rope-makers laying-walk, and the taring-walk, over which were sails, canvas, and ropes; all which were consumed. The beams, by the violence
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of the fire, flew in the air like so many paper serpents, and many of them fell in *Gosport*. It rained very hard all night. It is thought that the stores caught fire by the lightning, which was very terrible, the element appearing as all on a blaze. In the warehouses consumed, were reposited 1050 tons of hemp, 500 tons of cordage, and about 700 sails, besides many hundred barrels of tar, oil, &c. Yet with all this devastation, amounting to a very great loss, such was the diligence exerted, and such was the quantity of stores in the naval way at *Chatham*, and other magazines of this nature, that all was easily and very soon supplied, without any very sensible loss by the public, though in the midst of a heavy and expensive war.

Since that time, there have been other unsuccessful attempts to consume this important storehouse by fire; even so late as the year 1777, a villain was executed for such an attempt, after having succeeded in part; and the malefactor now hangs on a gibbet, on the *Gosport* side of the entrance of *Portsmouth* harbour.

Next, we arrived at the *Portsmouth* hills, which are of chalk, and at a moderate distance from the shore extend themselves into *Sussex*.

Here we turned to admire the face of the ground we had passed. The ports, creeks, bays, ocean, castles, and ships, the *Isle of Wight*, *Portchester*, the considerable town of *Gosport*, *Portsmouth*, *Southampton*, *Chichester*, and all the coast from *Portland* isle to *Sussex*, were comprehended under one view.

Upon *Portsmouth*, near the high *London* road, the late *Peter Taylor*, esquire, erected a very handsome house, and at the time of his death was making very great and extensive improvements around it. It is said this gentleman had it in actual contemplation to supply the town of *Portsmouth* with water, which

the inhabitants are now obliged to fetch at a great distance, by means of pipes to be laid from a spring near his house to the town; but, perhaps from the difficulty, or immense expence of the undertaking, it was not accomplished.

From *Portsmouth*, west, the country lies low and flat, is full of creeks and inlets of the sea and rivers, all the way to *Southampton*; so that we ferry over three times in about 18 miles, besides going over the bridge at *Tichfield*. The first of these ferries is at *Portsmouth* itself, cross the mouth of the harbour, from the *Point* above mentioned, to *Gosport*, a large town and of great trade, especially in time of war, and which has been very lately improved by an hospital, and by strong fortifications. From thence we ride to *Tichfield*, as above, where we pass the river *Aire*. Thence, at about four miles, we pass another river at *Buffelton*, narrow in breadth, but exceeding deep, and eminent for its being able to carry the largest ships: here is a building-yard for ships of war; and in king *William's* time two eighty-gun ships were launched here. It seems, the safety of the creek, and the plenty of timber in the country behind it, are the reasons of building so much in this place.

From hence, when we come opposite to *Southampton*, we pass another creek, which comes down from *Winchester*, and is both very broad and deep. On the opposite bank stands the ancient town of *Southampton*, on the other side of which comes down another large river, called the *Tis*, entering *Southampton* water by *Redbridge*; so that the town of *Southampton* stands upon a point running out into the sea, between two very fine rivers, both navigable for some way up the country, and particularly useful for bringing down timber out of one of the best wooded counties in *Britain*; for the river on the west-side

of the town comes by the edge of *New Forest*. But of late years, and since the above was written, there has been so much timber cut down in this forest, and such neglect in fencing and securing the young trees, that, unless there be more care taken to preserve it, there will be scarce any timber left there in a few years; and here it may not be amiss to take notice, that the persons, whose employments were designed to preserve and encourage the growth of timber, are generally the people who destroy it; to which they are led by the perquisites of their places, which ought never to be allowed. But perhaps there is not a more extraordinary employment, than that of surveyors of the woods, as it hath been managed of late years.

Hence from *Ports-bridge*, upon a little turning of the shore, we see *Havant*, a small, but neat market-town, having a market-house, and a good market on a *Saturday*; and in which are houses of good accommodation. This place is about midway between *Portsmouth* and *Chichester*; and about two miles farther from *Portsmouth*, in the same road, is the village of *Emsworth*, which of late hath greatly increased in its number of inhabitants, and bids fair to be a very large populous place, and one of great trade; the sea coming up quite to the town, and several merchants settling there for the convenience of trade.

Near *Havant* is *Warblington*, formerly a beautiful seat of the earls of *Salisbury*, and afterwards of the *Cottons*. Before these lie two islands; the larger called *Haling*, the other *Thorney*; and each has its parish-church. The hills leading from *Havant* to *Portsmouth* (on which are placed beacons, to give notice of invasions in times of danger) afford a most delightful view of the sea for miles together.

Southampton is a very antient town, sends two members to parliament, and is a county of itself. It is situate between the rivers *Tese* or *Anton*, and *Aires* or *Itching*, in the south-west part of the county, to which it gives name. It formerly contained six parish-churches, *Holy-rood*, *St. Michael's*, *All Saints*, *St. Lawrence*, *St. John's*, and *St. Mary's*, but the two latter were united in the reign of *Charles* the second. It has also a *French* protestant church, a charity-school, &c. This town has declined in trade since the beginning of the last century; but its commercial busines is by no means inconsiderable at this time. Its chief trade is with *Portugal*, and the islands of *Jersey*, *Guernsey*, *Alderney*, and *Sark*.

But, though the trade of Southampton may be decayed, its inhabitants are very considerable; as the beauty and salubrity of its situation has induced a great many very genteel and respectable families to make it the place of their residence. It is also much resorted to as a place of summer amusement; and, if the healthiness of situation, the beauty of a surrounding country, the river that washes it, the neighbouring *Isle of Wight*, with the seats, parks, and other objects of curiosity in its vicinity, are attractions, it is no wonder that Southampton is a favourite public place, as it may be said to possess them all in very great perfection. Indeed, the describing pen of the most fanciful writer is not equal to the task of doing it justice. As the salt-water tide flows up the river, the advantage of bathing is another inducement for many persons to visit this place; and proper accommodations are prepared for that purpose. How far the salt-water, which certainly mingles with a fresh-water stream, may answer the purposes of actual sea-bathing, I cannot pretend to determine. Though Dr. *Speed*, having made a comparative experiment of the water at Southampton, and at the south-

south-end of the *Isle of Wight*, declares positively, that the former contains the same specific quantity of salt as the latter. But after all that can possibly be said in defence of the bathing at this place, as the tides vary in their periods, and bathing is only practicable at high water, an evident inconvenience ensues, which must interfere with a strict bathing regimen at this place. There are, indeed, baths which are contrived to retain the salt-water when the tide is ebb'd; but they must serve such a variety of people, without being replenished, as to render the use of them very disagreeable.

As at other public places, assembly-rooms, coffee-houses, billiard-tables, circulating libraries, plays, &c. are open for the subscriptions and attendance of the resorting company; while the delicious prospects which the environs afford, and the neighbouring seats, parks, gardens, &c. invite morning and evening excursions. To enter into a minute description of the many delightful places which surround Southampton would require a volume; I shall therefore only mention the names of such as I have seen with great pleasure and admiration, for the information of the traveler, that he may not be ignorant of what is so well worthy his regard and attention.

The ruins of *Netley Abbey*, which is supposed to have been founded so early as the twelfth century, from their venerable appearance and the beauty of their situation, never fail to inspire the attentive beholder with awe and delight.

Bevis Mount, the seat of sir *John Mordaunt*, knight of the bath, depends, for some of its principal beauties on the *Southampton* river, and, when it is high water, affords the most beautiful scenery that can be imagined. The late lord *Peterborough*, to whom it belonged, would never suffer the gardens to be seen but at that time. Mr. *Rumbold's* at *Bevis Hill*,

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Belle Kie, the house and gardens of the late Mr. St. André; North Stoneham park, the seat of Mr. Fleming; Mr. Serle's at Testwood, Paultons belonging to the right honourable Hans Stanley, Cranbury, the seat of Mr. Dummer, Beaulieu, Lymington, Lyndhurst, Ramsey, Broadlands, and many other places, offer their different beauties to the admiration of the attentive traveller.

At Southampton I took a passage to the *Isle of Wight*, in one of the commodious boats which go thither and return every day; and sailing down the most beautiful piece of water, perhaps, in the world, we arrived at Cowes, at about the distance of sixteen miles. In our passage we passed by *Calbot Castle*, which, of late, has received very considerable improvements, and seems, at a distance, to be floating in the water. About a mile behind this castle, the honourable *Temple Luttrell* has erected a very lofty tower, which commands a very grand and extensive prospect, and affords a very fine object for the *Isle of Wight*.

There are two towns which bear the name of *Cowes*, the east and west, situated opposite to each other at the mouth of *Newport* river. There is a castle with a garrison on the west side, that on the eastern having been long demolished. This fortification consists of a small stone house, with a semicircular battery on its north front, pierced for eight guns. There is a considerable trade carried on here.

From hence to *Newport*, the chief town in this island, is about five miles of exceeding good road, or you may go by water up a pleasant river. *Newport* is a large, populous, neat town, well-built, chiefly with stone, and situated nearly in the middle of the island. It is governed by a mayor, aldermen, &c. and, among its inhabitants, can boast of many people of fortune and consideration.

About a mile to the south of the town is *Carifbrook Castle*, which is said to have been built originally by the *Britons*, repaired by the *Romans*, and afterwards rebuilt by *Whitgar*, who, according to *Stowe*, was king of the island in the year 519. It has been, since those days, frequently rebuilt and repaired by successive monarchs; but, what makes it more interesting to the modern traveller, is, its having been, for thirteen months, the prison of the unfortunate *Charles the First*, whose design to escape from thence is so particularly related by lord *Clarendon*. At this place is a well two hundred feet in depth, and covered with an house; a pin thrown into it is near four seconds of time in reaching the bottom, and on striking the water sends up a loud and very unexpected sound. The water is drawn up by a wheel, worked by an ass.

In this island are the seats of sir *John Oglander*, sir *John Barrington*, Mr. *Grose*, the right honourable *Hans Stanley*, the governor, and sir *Richard Worsley*, all of which are in delightful situations, and possess beauties sufficient to attract the visits of strangers, especially the latter, whose park is very romantic. The house also is a very noble edifice, and has lately been compleated and fitted up in all the elegance of modern taste. On the west side of the island are the *Needles*, which consist of several large chalky rocks, one of which, that was almost two hundred feet in height from its base, fell down about three years ago.

The *Isle of Wight* is almost sixty miles in circumference, and contains within itself the most beautiful scenes that can be conceived; but when to these are added, *Portsmouth* harbour, *Spithead*, the *New Forest*, the *Hampshire* hills, the *Southampton* river, and the surrounding ocean, the idea of its prospect and situation may, in some measure, be conveyed.

to the admiring reader. Next to *Sicily*, it is, perhaps, the most fruitful spot in *Europe*, as it is supposed to produce six times more than is necessary for the consumption of its inhabitants. The wool of its sheep is remarkable for goodness, and while the surrounding sea affords plenty of fish, their woods are full of game. It contains three borough towns, *Newport*, *Yarmouth*, and *Newtown*, each of which sends two members to parliament.

This island is noted for having been once advanced to the title of a kingdom, by king *Henry VI.* in behalf of *Henry Beauchamp*, earl of *Warwick*, his great favourite, who was crowned king of *Wight*, and of the isles of *Jersey* and *Guernsey*, in 1445, but, dying two years after, the isle lost the title; for king *Edward IV.* who succeeded *Henry*, bestowed it upon his father-in-law, *Richard Woodville*, earl *Rivers*, with the title of *Lord of Wight*, as was the late earl of *Derby*; and as the present duke of *Athol* was lord of the *Isle of Man*; but he sold his sovereignty to the crown of *Great Britain*.

Returning to *Southampton*, I was at the extent of my proposed journey west, intending to look no farther this way for the present. I went north-east, leaving *Winchester* a little on the left, and came into the *Portsmouth* road at *Petersfield*, a town chiefly noted for its inns, and standing in the middle of a country that used to abound with oak-timber, and which returns two members to parliament. From hence we came to *Alton*, and in the road thither began little to taste the pleasure of the western downs, which reach from *Winchester* almost to that place.

The duke of *Bolton* has two noble seats in this county, one between *Alton* and *Alresford*, (which is now running to ruin) and one at *Basing*, of which we saw nothing after.

Alton is a small market-town of no note; yet has a manufactory of corded druggets, figured barragons, serge de nims; has a market on Saturdays, and a fair on new Michaelmas-day. It is 50 measured miles from Hyde park-corner, in the main road to Winchester and Southampton; has but a small mean church, and the two principal inns are, the Swan, and the White-hart. A small rivulet, called the Way, which rises about half a mile from this town, runs through it, and empties itself into Guilford river. There is not any considerable manufacture in all this part of England, except a little drugget and shalloon-making; otherwise the whole counties of Kent, Sussex, Surrey, and Hampshire, are not employed in any considerable woollen manufacture.

From Alton we came to Farnham, a large populous market-town, the farthest that way in the county of Surrey, from London; and, excepting Hempstead and London, was once the greatest corn-market in England, particularly for wheat, of which vast quantities used to be brought hither every market-day. But for some years past, its market for corn has very much dwindled; but it has so greatly improved in its hops, for upwards of 50 years together, that it may be said to outdo Canterbury, Maidstone, and any of the places in Kent, most noted for that commodity; and this not only in quantity, but goodness. In short, all the neighbourhood about Farnham is one general hop-ground; and, to shew the excellency of the product, Farnham hops now lead the price at all markets in England. Their superiority in this article is owing to their great care in picking, drying and fine bagging.

At this town is a castle built by a bishop of Winchester, which has been possessed by the bishops of that diocese from king Stephen's time to this day.

yet, though it is a fine situation, and affords a noble prospect, it is bleak, and the apartments are too numerous to be warm. The kitchen utensils exhibit a pleasing idea of the old *English* hospitality; for which benevolent purpose such immense revenues were formerly given to ecclesiastics. This palace is a magnificent structure, it is deeply moated, and strongly walled, with towers at proper distances. It stands upon the edge of an hill, where there is a fine park, stocked with deer, the property of the bishop, who has them sent, together with fruit from the garden, &c. to supply his table at *London*.

One large and broad street of the town below-hill fronts the castle, in which an elegant musick room has been lately built, at the expence of Mr. *Baker*, who has furnished it with a very fine organ. The rest of the town consists chiefly of a long straight street, crossing it at right angles. The river runs parallel to it on the south.

About two miles from *Farnham* is *More-park*, formerly the seat of sir *William Temple*, who, by his will, ordered his heart to be put into a china-bason, and buried under a fun-dial in his garden, which was accordingly performed. This house is situated in a valley, surrounded on every side with hills, having a running stream through the gardens, which, with a small expence, might be made to serpentize through all the adjacent meadows, in a most delightful manner. Going from this seat, on the left-hand, under an high cliff, is a noted kind of natural grotto, which they call *Mother Ludge's Hole*, through which runs a fine and strong rill of water. The grotto is large, but diminishes and winds away, as the spring seems to have directed it. The owner has paved the bottom of it with a kind of mosaic tile, and has separated the wider part from the narrower behind by a little parapet, through which issues the flow of water,

which trills through marble troughs, one below another, till it is conveyed out of the grotto; and there murmuring down a considerable declivity, over many artificial steps, falls into the river on the right-hand; all which gives a very delightful entertainment to such as choose in warm weather to make little collations or visits, there being settees, with arms, for their conveniency.

From this grotto you command a fine prospect of the meadows and woods which lie below it, and over-against it, and these are bounded again by hills; which makes the whole one of the most romantic situations imaginable.

About a mile onwards from the above-described grotto, is a seat in the possession of *Thomas Orby Hunter*, esquire, who has made great improvements in the gardens. It is built on the site of *Waverley abbey*, a monastery for *Cistercian* monks, built by *William Giffard*, bishop of *Winchester*; the kitchen of which, and other parts of its ruins, are still seen pretty intire, and were a few years ago much more so, before it fell into the hands of a farmer, who used to load his teams with the ruins to mend the roads, and for his private purposes.

From *Farnham*, that I might take in the whole county of *Surry*, I took the coach-road over *Bagshot heath*, and that great forest, as it is called, of *Windſter*.

Bagshot heath, which at present is an horrid barren country, is capable of great improvement, as may be judged by the several inclosures on the borders of it, and some in the centre also, which, from being in the same condition (as we at present see the whole face of the country thereabouts, very barren, yielding nothing but heath and worts), now produce good corn and grass; and in some parts are plantations of trees, which thrive well. On the edge of this heath are several seats of noblemen; but those

which

which require notice are, first, the late earl of *Arran's*, which is a large inclosure, the wood-walks and other plantations being upwards of two miles in circumference; and the park, which runs on the other side of the house, is upwards of three miles. The plantations in this inclosure have made good progress; which is a proof, that the soil thereabouts is capable of great improvement. This estate belongs to the crown, and, at the death of the earl of *Arran*, was granted to the earl of *Albemarle*, who commanded at the taking of the *Havannah*.

About four miles from *Bagshot*, and three from *Wockenham*, upon the forest, is *Easthamstead Park*, late in the possession of *William Trumbull*, esquire, son of sir *William Trumbull*, who was secretary of state to king *William III.* and afterwards of the late honourable *Martin Sandys*, second son of *Samuel lord Sandys*, who married *Mary*, his daughter and heir. This was an hunting-seat of king *Henry VIII.* and to this house his queen retired from the court. This park, though still inclosed with a pale, has been for some years dissparkled, and turned into farms; but by the present possessor is so well laid out and improved, as to have the beauties of a park, a farm, and garden, all blended together; which renders it extremely agreeable, and, at the same time, profitable to the master; and although part of the soil of this park is as bad as any part of *Windsor Forest*, yet by the draining and dressing of the land there have been as good crops of hay and corn produced on it, as could be expected from land of much greater price; which is another strong proof of this forest being capable of great improvements. The late owner converted the greatest part of the land into a park again.

This desert of land, of the like kind of soil as about *Bagshot*, lies extended so much, that some say

there are not less than 100,000 acres, that lie altogether, reaching out every way in the counties of *Surry*, *Hampshire*, and *Berkshire*; besides a great quantity of land, almost as bad as that between *Godalming* and *Petersfield*, on the road to *Portsmouth*, including some hills called the *Hind-head*, and others.

Through this desert we come into the great western road, leading from *London* to *Salisbury*, *Exeter*, &c. and pass the *Thames* at *Staines*.

Here recollecting that I had yet left the inland towns of the two counties of *Kent* and *Sussex*, and great part of the county of *Surry*, out of my account :

From *Staines* I turned south, and S. E. to *Chertsey*, another market-town, where is a bridge over the *Thames*: this town is noted for the burial-place of *Henry VI.* whence his bones were afterwards removed to *Windſor* by *Henry VII.* and also for its being the retreat of the famous Mr. *Abraham Cowley*, where he lived distant from hurries of the court and town, intirely taken up in country-businesſ, farming, and husbandry, for his diversion, and where he also died. This town has also an handsome free-school, built by sir *William Perkins*, and communicates its name to the hundred in which it stands, and which is exempt from the jurisdiction of the high-sheriff, who must direct his writ to the bailiff of this hundred, an officer appointed by letters patent from the exchequer for life.

From this town, wholly employed in malting, and in barge-carriages down the river to *London*, I went away south to *Woking*, a private country market-town, so out of the way, that it is very little heard of in *England*. It was the last retreat of the old countess of *Richmond*, mother to king *Henry VII.* where the king her son repaired an old royal house, on purpose for her residence, and where she ended

her days in honour and peace ; the former part of her life having been much exposed to storms and dangers. It is remarkable, that the several residences of this lady are more particularly pointed out in history, than perhaps those of any other. The market-house was built in 1665, by James Zouch, esquire.

From hence we came to *Guilford*, a handsome and considerable market town. Here sometimes the assizes are held, but always elections for parliamentmen for the county ; the town itself returning two. The river, which, according to Mr. *Camden*, is called the *Wey*, and which falls into the *Thames* at *Oatlands*, is made navigable to this town, (and also to *Godalmin*) which adds greatly to its trade ; and by this navigation a great quantity of timber is brought down to *London*, not from the neighbourhood of this town only, but even from the woody parts of *Sussex* and *Hampshire* above 30 miles from it, the country carriages bringing it hither in the summer by land.

Here is a small remainder of an old manufacture in the clothing-trade ; and it extends itself to *Godalmin*, *Haseimere*, and the vale country, on the side of the *Holmwood* (of which I shall speak on another occasion) quite to *Dorking*.

This clothing-trade, however small, is yet very assisting to the poor of this part of the country, where the lands are but indifferent, the inhabitants, generally cottagers, living chiefly by the commons and heath-ground thereabouts. Here is a free-school founded by *Edward VI.* and an alms-house by *George Abbot*, archbishop of *Canterbury*, and endowed by him with lands worth 300*l.* a year, of which he ordered 100*l.* to be employed in setting the poor at work, and the other 200*l.* for the maintenance of a master, 12 brethren, and eight sisters, who are each to have 2*s.* 6*d.* a week. It is said the occasion of this endowment was to atone for his accidentally

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killing a game-keeper by a shot from a cross-bow. The wound, we are told, was made in the *enmontry* of the arm; a term unknown to the ablest anatomists of these days. This town gives the title of earl to the noble family of *North*. It is a corporation, consisting of a mayor, recorder, aldermen, &c. and the town returns two members to parliament.

But what struck me most, were the ruins of an old castle, and some of the remains of a palace of great extent, which, as appears by the best authorities, was the residence of *Ethelwald*, one of the Saxon kings, about 800 years ago. It also appears from the foundations that have been dug up, at some distance from the place where the ruins stand, that the whole declivity of the hill on the east-side of the river *Wey* was occupied by this monarch. I believe it was the queen of this potentate, *Ebby*, whose favourite residence was called *Ebby's Home*, or *Ebby's House*, now converted into *Epsom*.

There are in *Guilford* three churches, all very low, and towered. On Wednesday the 23d of April, 1740, the upper church at *Guilford* in *Surry* fell down. It was an ancient building, and, not long before, 750l. were expended upon it in repairs; there was preaching in it on the Sunday before, and workmen were employed in taking down the bells, who providentially had quitted the spot about a quarter of an hour before the accident happened, so that not one person received any hurt: three bells had been taken down, and the other three fell with the steeple, which broke the body of the church to pieces, though the steeple received but little damage by the fall. It has since been rebuilt with brick.

From *Guilford* the road to *Farnham* is very remarkable; for it runs along west from *Guilford* upon the ridge of an high chalky hill, no wider than the road itself; and the declivity begins on either side

* Prob
e and
had

hand, at the very edge that bounds the highway, and is very steep and high. From this hill is a prospect either way, so far, that it is surprising; insomuch that one sees to the north, or north-west, over *Bagshot-heath*, one way, to the south-east into *Sussex* the other way, almost to the *South-downs*, and west to an unbounded length, where the horizon only restrains the eye. This hill being all chalk, a traveller feels the effect of it in an hot summer's day, when the reflexion of the sun makes the heat almost insupportable. This hill reaches from *Guilford* so far as within two miles and a half of *Farnham*.

The hill, or rather the ascent of it from *Guilford*, is called *St. Catharine's Hill*, where a yearly fair is held; on the summit whereof stands the gallows, which is so placed, that the town's-people, from the *High-street*, may sit at their shop-doors, and see the criminals executed.

Near *Guilford*, on the left-hand side of the road leading to *Godalmin*, are the remains of an ancient chapel, situated on the summit of an hill, so as to be seen at a considerable distance every way. This is called *St. Catharine's Chapel*. The materials with which this was built, are a sort of tile*, which, when broken, has the appearance of iron within; and the cement which joins these tiles is now so hard, as scarce to be penetrated with the strongest instrument. The only remains of this chapel are the outside walls, which being built with these materials have resisted the weather, and the common fate of things.

The great road from *London* to *Chichester*, and from *London* to *Portsmouth*, lying through *Guilford*, it is consequently a town very well furnished with inns for accommodation of travellers.

* Probably these were *Roman* bricks, which were more like tiles in shape and size than modern bricks.

As is *Godalmin* also, the next town, within three miles of it, noted likewise, of late years, for the impostress *Mary Tofts*, who so long amused statesmen, divines, (one of whom explained some parts of the *Revelations* from this affair) physicians, anatomists, and, in short, all degrees of men, learned and unlearned, with her infamous rabbit-productions, &c.

Stocking-weaving is the only manufacture worthy of notice carried on in this town. The best whitened-brown paper is said to come from hence, and that the manufacture was set up in the reign of *James I.* In the year 1739, the small-pox carried off, in this town, upwards of 500 persons in the space of three months, which was more than a third part of the inhabitants.

There is another road to *London* from this town through *Leatherhead*, *Epsom*, &c. and, though it may be two miles about, will well reward the traveller for the lengthening his journey; as that part of it which lies between *Guilford* and *Epsom* is, perhaps, the most beautiful piece of inland road in the kingdom. The country through which you pass is beautifully adorned with woods, sheep-walks, parks, gardens, and the seats of the nobility and gentry, which greet the eye of the traveller in a most pleasing and delightful succession.

The seat of the lord *Onslow*, which is the first on the road from *Guilford*, is a noble edifice, built after an *Italian* model. The gardens are beautiful, and laid out in the modern taste. It has plenty of good water, and commands a delightful prospect over a large country, as far as *Windsor Great Park*. The house is seen from the road up a grand avenue, and presents itself to travellers to be, what is really is, one of the finest seats in this part of the kingdom.

On the same road is an ancient seat, now in the possession of —— *Fox*, esquire, nephew to the late lord *Bingley*, which, though an old building, yet having an open situation in front, towards the *Downs*, is rendered very pleasant; and the late possessor, being a person of fine taste, beautified the house within, and made pleasant plantations in several parts of it.

Hatchlands, the seat of Mr. *Sumner*, and built by the late admiral *Boycawen*, discovers itself in a very agreeable manner as you ride along: *Fetcham* also makes a very pleasing appearance from the road; it is now the seat of lord *Bulkeley*, of which he is just come into the possession by his marriage with Miss *Warren*, daughter of sir *George Warren*, knight of the bath, and grand-daughter of *Thomas Nevel*, esquire, the late possessor of it.

Two miles from *Guildford*, on the banks of the *Wey*, was a fine seat, which belonged to lord *Onslow*, but when I saw it, it was in the possession of the late general *Onslow*, called *Pyrford*, and is exceedingly pleasant, for the beautiful intermixture of wood and water in the gardens and grounds adjoining. The house was large, but much out of repair; and since, I have been informed, is pulled down, and most of the timber about it sold. Adjoining to the park is a very convenient and ingenious decoy, the first of the kind in this part of *England*. Near this is a small pleasant seat, now in the possession of the right honourable lord *King*, son of the lord chancellor *King*. The gardens belonging to this house have been lately much improved, the waters enlarged, and the whole opened according to the modern taste, and was there a better house, it might be reckoned one of the prettiest villa's for a summer retreat in that part of the country.

At *Painsbill*, near *Cobham*, is the seat of the honourable *Charles Hamilton*; who has made great improvement, by inclosing a large tract of land designed for a park, which was most of it so poor, as not to produce any thing but heath and broom: but by burning of the heath, and spreading of the ashes on the ground, a crop of turneps was obtained; and by feeding sheep on the turneps their dung became a good manure to the land; so that a fine sward of grass is now upon the land, where it was judged by most people impossible to get any herbage. This is the sort of improvement, which was mentioned in *Norfolk*, where land has been raised from five shillings an acre per annum to 30 or 40*s.* and were this sort of husbandry practised in many other parts of *England*, it would be of great service to the public, and amply increase the value of the lands to the proprietor.

This creation of Mr. *Hamilton*, for I can consider it as little less, justifies the general opinion of his consummate taste and knowledge in garden and park improvements: for, from a barren heath, by availing himself of fortunate inequalities of ground, and by a judicious disposition of plantation, which is unparalleled, with the addition of water and elegant buildings, he has produced a place which contains more internal beauties than can be seen in any other park or garden in this kingdom. There may be scenes where Nature has done more for herself, but in no place that I ever saw so much has been done for Nature as at *Pain's-bill*. The beauty and unexpected variety of the scene, the happy situation, elegant structure and judicious form of his buildings; the flourishing state, uncommon diversity, and contrasted groupage of his trees, and the contrivance of this water, &c. &c. will not fail to awake the most pleasing sensations of pleasure and admiration in every

every beholder of taste and sensibility. In the temple of *Bacchus* there is a very fine antique colossal statue of that god, with several very excellent bustos of the *Roman* emperors, &c. The author of this place having finished his work, and attained that time of life when society is more necessary and desirable, retired to *Bath*, and disposed of this enchanting spot to *Benjamin Bond Hopkins*, esquire, who has lately added to its appearance by erecting a very elegant villa in a commanding part of the park. This gentleman continues to preserve and fulfill every idea of the first former of the whole.

At *Cobham*, the adjoining village, is the pleasant seat of lord *Ligonier*, and at *Byfleet* is the villa of the earl of *Tankerville*. In this neighbourhood, also, are the handsome and new erected seats of sir *Thomas Sewel*, master of the rolls, and sir *Joseph Mawbey*, baronet, one of the representatives in parliament for this county.

The river *Mole*, which rises near *Dorking*, passes along by the side of this park, and in its course serpentinizes about in pretty a manner, that you frequently lose sight of it; and by its windings makes the course almost four miles within the compass of this inclosure. Indeed this river is very narrow, and in dry weather the current is slow, and the water not well coloured, which, it must be allowed, takes off from its beauty; yet there is room for great improvements, by sloping off the banks, so as to have a better view of the water; and in many places, by taking away some of the little projection of the banks, it may be widened, so as to appear considerable at some distance; which, if done, would add much to the beauty of the place.

On the left-hand of the great road to *Guilford*, before we reach *Ripley*, is *Ockham*, the seat of the right honourable lord *King*, whose park joins to the great

great road. This was purchased by the chancellor when he was sir Peter King ; the house was greatly repaired and beautified by the late lord ; and the present lord has made great improvements in the park and gardens, so as to render it as pleasant as any seat can be, where there is a want of water.

At the north-east end of this range of fine seats, is *Leatherhead*, a little thoroughfare town, with a stone-bridge over the *Mole*; which is so called, from its remarkable sinking into the earth, at the foot of *Box hill*, near a village called *Mickleham*, and working its way under ground like a mole, rising again at or near this town of *Leatherhead*; where its wandering streams are united again, and form a pretty large river, as they were before, running together under *Leatherhead* bridge, and from thence to *Cobham*; and afterwards pursues its course to the *Thames*, which it joins at *Molesey*.

The town of *Dorkin* is eminent for several things worth observation ; as, first, for the great *Roman* highway, call *Stoney-street*, which passes through its church yard. Secondly, for a little common or heath, called the *Cottman Dean*, or the heath of *Poor Cottages* (for so the word signifies) belonging to the town ; and where their alms-house stands, which some learned physicians believe to be the best air in *England*. Thirdly, for Mr. *Howard's* house and garden, called *Deepden* ; which stands in a small valley, environed with steep hills on every side : the level-ground about the house was laid out into pleasant walks and gardens, which were planted with a great variety of exotic trees and plants, and the hills were covered with trees on every side, excepting the south aspect, which was planted with vines ; and formerly there has been some tolerable good wine made there, though the hill is so steep, that it is very difficult to walk up it. At present the gardens and vineyard are neglected,

neglected, and many of the exotic trees have been destroyed. On the summit of the hill, above the vineyard, is a summer-house, from which, in a clear day, you may discern the sea over the *South-downs*, near *Arundel*.

The parish of *Dorkin* extends about five miles from east to west, and nearly the same length from north to south, and lies in the hundred of *Wootton*. The town, though not large, is populous; the streets are wide and open, and, from the situation, naturally clean. The church is a plain stone building, with a tower steeple, in which is a ring of eight small but tunable bells, and a set of chimes. There is also a meeting-house for the Presbyterians, and another for the Quakers.

The market of *Dorkin* is the most famous in *England* for poultry, and particularly for the fattest geese and the largest capons. They are brought hither from as far as *Horsham* in *Sussex*; and it is the busines of all the country, on that side, for many miles, to breed and fatten them up; and some are so large, as to be little inferior to turkies: I have seen them sold from 4*s.* to 4*s.* 6*d.* each, and weighing from 4 to 5 or 6*lb.* apiece.

On *Holy Thursday* here is also a fair for cattle and lambs, and it was formerly one of the greatest in *England* for the latter, but of late it is much lessened in that respect, owing principally to the jobbers about *Horsham*, who ingross great numbers and send them to *Smithfield* market. West from the town, at about a mile distance, begins a range of hills, called *Ranmer*, which bound *Dorkin* parish on the north. On the highest part thereof is the seat of *Jonathan Tyers*, esq; the proprietor of *Vaux-ball*, whose improvements shewed his taste and judgement. This house is now in the possession of the honourable *Peter King*, esq.

From

From *Box-hill*, and particularly from this part of it, is a fine view, in clear weather, quite over the *Weald of Sussex* to the *South-downs*; and, by the help of glasses, the town of *Horsham*, *Ashdown* forest, the earl of *Egremont's* house at *Petworth*, and the *South-downs*, as they range between *Brightelmstone* and *Arundel*, may be plainly seen; besides an unbounded prospect into *Kent*.

But a much nobler prospect still does *Leith-hill* afford. I shall give it the words of Mr. *Dennis*^{*}, as written to his Friend Mr. *Serjeant*, as follows:

"I never in all my life (says that famous critic, who deserved a better fate than he met with) left the country without regret, and always returned to it with joy. The sight of a mountain is to me more agreeable than that of the most pompous edifice; and meadows, and natural winding streams, please me before the most beautiful gardens, and the most costly canals." We have lived to see this judicious choice become general, though the old neglected bard did not. "So much (says he) does Art appear to me to be surpassed by Nature, and the works of men by the works of God."

"In a late journey which I took into the wild *Sussex*, I passed over an hill which shewed me a more transporting sight, than ever the country had shewn me before, either in *England* or *Italy*. The prospects, which in *Italy* pleased me most, were that of the *Valdarno*, from the *Apennines*; that of *Rome* and the *Mediterranean*, from the mountain of *Viterbo*; of *Rome* at 40, and of the *Mediterranean* at 50 miles distance from it; and that of the *Campagna* of *Rome*, from *Tivoli* and *Frescati*; from which two places you see every foot of that famous *Campagna*, even from the bottom of *Tivoli* and *Frescati* to the

* See his *Letters Familiar, Moral, and Critical*, vol. I. p. 30.

very foot of the mountain *Viterbo*, without any thing to intercept your sight. But from an hill, which I passed in my late journey into *Suffex*, I had a prospect more extensive than any of these, and which surpassed them at once in rural charms, in pomp, and in magnificence. The hill which I speak of is called *Leith-hill*, and is about five miles southward from *Dorkin*, about six from *Box-hill*, and near 12 from *Epsom*. It juts itself out about two miles beyond that range of hills, which terminates the north-downs to the south. When I saw, from one of those hills, at about two miles distance, that side of *Leith-hill* which faces the northern downs, it appeared the beautifulest prospect I had ever seen; but after we conquered the hill itself, I saw a sight that would transport a stoic; a sight that looked like enchantment and vision, but vision beatific. Beneath us lay open to our view all the wilds of *Surry* and *Suffex*, and a great part of that of *Kent*, admirably diversified in every part of them with woods, and fields of corn and pasture, being every-where adorned with stately rows of trees.

"This beautiful vale is about 30 miles in breadth, and about 60 in length, and is terminated to the south by the majestic range of the southern hills, and the sea; and it is no easy matter to decide, whether these hills, which appear at 30, 40, 50 miles distance, with their tops in the sky, appear more awful and venerable, or the delicious vale between you and them more inviting. About noon, at 30 miles distance, you may, in a serene day, see the very water of the sea, through a chasm of the mountains. And that which, above all, makes a noble prospect, is, that at the same time that, at 30 miles distance, you behold the very water of the sea, at the same time that you behold to the south the most delicious rural prospect in the world,

at

at that very time, by a little turn of your head towards the north, you look full over *Box-hill*, and see the country beyond it, between that and *London*; and, over the very stomacher of it, see *St. Paul's* at 25 miles distance, and *London* beneath it, and *Highbury* and *Hamstead* beyond it.

"It may, perhaps, appear incredible to some, that a place, which affords so great and so surprising a prospect, should have remained so long in obscurity *; in so great obscurity, that it is unknown to the very frequenters of *Epsom* and *Box-hill*. But, alas! we live in a country more fertile of great things, than of men to admire them. Whoever talked of *Cooper's Hill*, till sir *John Denham* made it illustrious? How long did *Milton* remain in obscurity, while 20 paltry authors, little and vile, if compared to him, were talked of, and admired? But here in *England*, 19 in 20 approve by other people's opinions, and not by their own †."

The vale beneath *Box-hill* is, for many miles east and west, called the *Holmward* or *Holmsdale*; in the woody part of which were often found out-lying red deer; and in the days of king *James II.* or while he was duke of *York*, they hunted the largest stags here, that have been seen in *England*. The duke took great care to have them preserved for his own sport; but they have, since that, been most of them destroyed.

This *Holmward* is now chiefly overgrown with furz; but was famous for producing such quantities of strawberries, that they were carried to market by horse-loads.

It is suggested, that this place was, in ancient times, the retreat, for many ages, of the native

* This letter is dated Aug. 27, 1717.

† A neighbouring gentleman has lately erected a tower on the summit of this hill, for the better viewing the prospect.

Britons, whom the Romans could never drive out; and, after that, it was the like to the Saxons, when the Danes harried the nation, and ravaged the country wherever they came. On this account they retain here in memory the following lines :

*This is Holmesdale,
Never conquered, never shall.*

The country, though wild still, and perhaps having the same countenance now in many places, as it had a thousand years ago; yet, in others, it is cultivated, and has roads passable enough in the summer, quite through it, on every side; and the woods are in a great measure cleared off.

Keeping along the bottom of these hills, and yet not entering into this vale, the country is dry, sandy, or gravelly, and full of gentlemen's houses, and good towns; though, if we go but a little to the right-hand south, into the wild part, is a deep, strong, and, in the wet season, an unpassable clay.

In passing through *Holmesdale*, (upon the ridge of mountains which extend from Kent to the *Land's End*) you come to *Wotton*, a small village, near which is the ancient seat of the *Evelyns*, which is situated amongst meadows, having pleasant streams of water passing through them, and the neighbouring hills covered with woods, which render the situation pleasant in the summer season; but the roads about it being very bad in winter, it is not so convenient an habitation at that season. There are in the skirts of this parish pits, out of which they dig jet.

Travelling East at the foot of the hills, we came to *Ryegate*, a large market town, situated in the valley of *Holmesdale*; where are still to be seen the ruins of a castle, with a long vault, and a room at the end of it; in which, it is said, the barons who were in arms against king *John* held their private meetings.

Here

Here is a seat belonging to the late Mr. alderman Parsons' family; which is beautified with plantations, and a large piece of water. The house (which was formerly a priory) is very large. There are two large halls, each of them 50 feet long, and of a proportionable breadth; but the cielings are much too low, which is a common fault in most antient buildings. There is a great quantity of carving about this house, which appears to have been standing many years. The house and gardens are surrounded with hills on every side, so as to render the prospect very romantic.

In this town the late lord Shaftesbury had an house; to which he frequently retired, when he was inclined to seclude himself from company. The house is now possessed by a private gentleman, who has laid out and planted a small spot of ground in so many little parts, as to comprise whatever can be supposed in the most noble seats; so that it may properly be called a model of a garden and park, for in the garden there is a mount, a river, a parterre, and wilderness, and without that a lawn with four or five deer, terminated by a small wood, and yet the whole compass of ground is not more than four acres. The name it passes under to the inhabitans of Ryegate, is, *All the world is an acre.*

Near Ryegate are two miserable borough-towns, which nevertheless send each of them two members to parliament; to wit, *Gatton* under the side of the hill, almost at Ryegate, which also returns two members; and *Blechingly* more eastward.

Ryegate is noted for a quarry of white free-stone, which is soft, and endures the fire very well in winter, but neither sun nor air: it is much used by chemists, bakers, glass-houses, &c.

At Blechingly are an alms-house and a free-school.

At

At *Nutfield*, between *Ryegate* and *Blechingly*, is another branch of the family of *Evelyn*, which has flourished there many years.

From hence, crossing still all the roads leading from *London* into *Suffex*, we came to a village called *Godstone*, which lies on the road from *London* to *Lewes*.

Keeping on east, we came to *Westerham*, a neat handsome, well-built market-town, the first in *Kent* on that side. The late earl of *Jersey* built (or rather finished, for it was begun by a private gentleman) a very noble house here, called *Squirries*, which is now in the possession of a descendant of sir *John Ward*, who was lord mayor of *London* in the year 1719. The house stands on a small eminence; but on the back of the house the ground rises very high, and is divided into several steep slopes, which, as the hills are to the south and west of the house, render the situation damp and cold. Near the house are some woods, through which the present possessor has cut several ridings, but many of them are too steep for that purpose; and on the south-side of the hill, above the house, arise nine considerable springs, which unite at a small distance, and form the river *Dart*, which runs through *Dartford*, and afterwards discharges itself into the *Thames*.

All this part of the country, from *Guildford* to this place, is very agreeably pleasant, healthy, and fruitful; and is overspread with good towns, gentlemens houses, populous villages, abundance of fruit, with hop-grounds and cherry-orchards, and the lands well cultivated; but all on the right-hand, that is to say, south, is over-grown with timber, has abundance of waste and wild grounds, and forests, and woods, with many large iron works, at which they cast iron caldrons, chimney-backs, furnaces, retorts,

torts, boiling pots, iron cannon, bomb-shells, hand-grenadoes, cannon-ball, &c. passing by *Hill Park*, *Coom Park*, and *Montreal*, the seats of the earl of *Hillsborough*, lord *Frederick Campbell*, and lord *Amherst*.

From hence going forward east, we come to *River-head*, a town on the road from *London* to *Tunbridge*; and then having little to add to what we have said of *Kent*, except some pretty market-towns, such as *Wrotham*, commonly called *Rootham*, *Town-malling*, &c. I turned north, and came to *Bromley*, a market town, made famous by the palace of the archbishop of *Rochester*, lately re-built; an hospital, or college, built there by Dr. *John Warner*, lord bishop of *Rochester*, for the relief of 20 poor widows of loyal and orthodox clergymen who are allowed each 20*l. per annum*, and a chaplain 50*l.* and it has had many gifts and charities bestowed on it since, particularly an augmentation by the late bishop *Pearce*.

Near this town we turned away by *Beckenham*, and through *Norwood*, to *Croydon*. In the way we saw *Dulwich* or *Sydenham-wells*, where great crowds of the middling people used to throng every summer from *London*, to drink the waters there and at *Stretton*, and the rather, because it lies so near *London*, that they can walk to it in the morning, and return at night.

The fine walk through the wood, over-against the *Green-man*, affords, when at the top of it, a noble prospect; but yet it is exceeded from an hill behind the house at the right-hand for the distinctness as well as nobleness of it; for here, as from the centre to the whole (the *Oak of Honour Hill*, as it is called, just by you, cloathed very agreeably with wood), you have in your eye (in such a manner, that you

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can distinguish, as if in a table) the very houses, as well as churches, and other public edifices, from Putney-bridge down to Chelsea, and all the adjacent villages, Westminster, London, Deptford, Greenwich, Black-wall, a considerable part of Kent, Essex, and, beyond and over the great metropolis, Highgate, Hamstead, as far as the eye can reach; a prospect so little known too, that it would be surprising to say it, did we not account for it by the fondness which we have for foreign curiosities, and by the neglect which it is a part of an Englishman's character to have for those much greater of his own.

Croydon has a great corn-market; chiefly for oats and oatmeal for the service of London. The town is large, and full of citizens from London: in it is the ancient palace of the archbishops of Canterbury, and several of them lie buried in the church here, which is reckoned the largest and handsomest in the county; particularly archbishop Whitgift, who not only repaired the palace, but built and endowed the famous hospital (which is for a warden, and 28 men and women, poor decayed housekeepers of this town, and of Lambeth), and the free school.

From hence we passed by Beddington, where is the seat or mansion-house of the ancient family of the Crews. The house is noble, and the gardens fine; yet architects say, that the two wings are too deep for the body of the house; that they should either have been more asunder, or not so long. The court before them is extremely fine, as is the canal in the park before the court, having a river running through it: the gardens take up all the flat part of the park with vistas, or prospects, for two or three miles. The orange-trees, which were formerly growing here in the open ground, are now dead. They had moving houses, to shelter them in the winter from the inclemencies of our climate; but a few years since, the

owner was at the expence of erecting a fine green-house, with sashes in front; the top of the house to take off in summer: since which time the trees have been constantly decaying; for, standing as it were in a narrow alley, between two walls, when the top is taken away, the current of air is so great, as to break the branches, and prevent the growth of the trees. They had stood in the ground above 100 years, and produced annually great quantities of fruit.

From hence it is but a little mile to *Carshalton*, a country village, situate among innumerable springs of water, which, all together, form a river in the very street of the town, and, joining the other springs which come from *Croydon* and *Beddington*, make one stream, called the *Wandell*. This village, though lying among such delightful springs, is yet upon firm chalk; and, having the *Downs* adjoining, makes the most agreeable spot on this side of *London*, as is abundantly testified by its being crowded, as it were, with fine houses of the citizens of *London*; some of which are built with such a profusion of expence, that they look rather like seats of the nobility, than the country-houses of citizens and merchants. I cannot dwell on the description of all the fine houses in this and the neighbouring villages: I shall speak of them again in bulk, with their neighbours of *Mitcham*, *Streatham*, *Tooting*, *Clapham**, and others; but I must take a trip here cross the *Downs* to *Epsom*.

Banstead

* *Clapham*, within these few years, has risen into consequence from the many new and elegant buildings erected on the common, and has a very neat chapel (opened in 1777) built on the north-east part of it. Mr. Thornton's ornamented paddock is well worth viewing. It is laid out in an agreeable manner, and, in some particulars, different from the common method of sketching them. It consists of a varied lawn, well scattered with single trees and some clumps, and so inclosed with wood as to be perfectly rural, though so near *London*. A gravel walk

Banstead-downs need no description other than this, that, being so near *London*, and surrounded, as they are, with pleasant villages, the ground smooth, soft, level, and dry (even in but a few hours after rain), they conspire to make the most delightful spot of ground of that kind in all this part of *Britain*.

Four miles over those delicious *Downs* bring us to *Epsom*, a well-built, large, and handsome village, which abounds with fine houses, the retreats principally of the *London* merchants. It was much frequented, a few years ago, on account of its mineral waters, which issue from a rising ground nearer *Aldsted* than *Epsom*: but they are now, though not impaired in their virtues, yet pretty much so in their reputation; possibly owing, more than any thing else, to the place being too near *London* for a journey for the quality and gentry; according to the old saying, *Farfetch'd, and dear bought, is fittest for the ladies.*

The town, however, for the very reason that the waters are less in repute, to wit, its vicinity to *London*, is resorted to in the summer, especially during the time of the races, by people of fortune; and

was round the whole, and encompasses several meadows, to the extent more than two miles. It is in most places shaded thickly with wood, and on one side very well broken with some old oaks, &c. that grow out of it. Almost in front of the house, it leads to a *Gothic* bench, that is light and pleasing. At each end it terminates in a shrubbery, which joins the house, and is, in several instances, very beautiful. A small river winds through it, gently bounded by rising hillocks, and smooth green slopes, very well varied, and spotted with shrubs and trees in a judicious manner. The bends of the water are natural, and the union with the lawn and wood well imagined. To the right, it seems lost in the retiring grove. These circumstances are all executed with real taste; and, if a few others were a little altered, the whole scene would (in its style) be complete. The rock-work grotto is, the author excepted, extremely well executed; but in too wild a style for a gentle stream, and a smooth shaven lawn spotted with shrubs: it requires a romantic situation on the banks of a rapid stream tumbling over broken fragments.

may, perhaps, in the revolutions of vogue and fashion, or whimsy, be, one day, once more, a shewing, or market-place for the sex.

There are a great many fine seats round this place, which we have not room to describe: such as the late lord *Baltimore's*, lady *Fielding's*, Mr. *Mitchell's* at *Carshalton*, and many others; also that formerly called *Nonsuch*, which was once a royal palace, and finely situated. King *Charles II.* gave it to the dutches of *Cleveland*; and she sold it to lord *Berkeley*, who built a fine seat with the materials of it, near *Epsom*, called *Durdans*. *Nonsuch* is now a handsome private house belonging to the reverend Mr. *Whately*; and *Durdans* is in the possession of the earl of *Guilford*.

From *Epsom*, that I might thoroughly visit the county of *Surry*, I rode over stiff clays, and through very bad roads, to *Kingston*; from whence I had a fine view of *Hampton-court*, at a distance; but that I reserve for another journey.

Kingston is a very old market-town, remarkable for a free-school, erected and endowed by queen *Elizabeth*; an alms-house, built in 1670 by alderman *Cleave of London*, and endowed with lands of 80*l.* a year, for the maintenance of six men and six women; an house where formerly resided the great earl of *Warwick*, surnamed *Make King*, besides *Coomb*, which was likewise his, but afterwards in the family of the *Hervey's*, and now in the possession of *John Spenser*, esq; from whence the waters of certain springs are said to be conveyed in leaden pipes under the road, and the *Thames*, to *Hampton-court*, three miles in length. Several of the old *Saxon* kings were not only crowned, but had their actual residence here; whence it took its name of *King's Town*. It had once the privilege of sending burgesses to parliament, but that has been long lost.

From

From hence turning southward, on the road to *Guilford*, we come to *Esher*, where was formerly a seat built by cardinal *Wolsey*, to which, during his ministry, he frequently retired for amusement. The gate to this Gothic building remaining, was turned into a dwelling-house, purchased by the late right honourable *Henry Pelham*, esq; who beautified the old part, made additional buildings to it in the same Gothic stile, and laid out the grounds about it in so elegant a taste, as makes it one of the finest seats in the neighbourhood of *London*: but the house stands so low, as not to be seen until you come very near it; and the river *Mole*, running near the back of the house, renders it very damp, which greatly diminishes the pleasure of the place, though there has been no cost spared to render it elegant.

Near *Esher*, on the left hand of the great road, lies *Claremont*, which was a small house, built under an hill covered with wood by the late sir *John Van-brugh*, and purchased by his grace the late duke of *Newcastle*, who was at a great expence in beautifying the gardens, &c. and adding to the house a great extent of buildings, in the same stile with the original house; and also building one large room, in which his grace entertained foreign embassadors, and where all the magnificent dinners, which the duke made in the country, were served up. The house is situated so near the hill, that the moisture issuing from thence occasions it to be damp; and the winds, being reverberated back from the woods on the house, cause most of the chimnies to smoke, so that this is a bad habitation in winter: but as it was the place to which his grace usually retired from public business, whenever his leisure would permit, he spared no expence to render it as agreeable as possible; though, as several persons have had the contrivance of his gardens and buildings, there is not any uniform taste to be

found in either; which is greatly to be regretted, since the late noble owner has been so much intent on having it worthy of himself*.

From hence, turning on the right towards the *Thames*, we pass *Walton* and *Weybridge*, where are several fine seats; but particularly those of the duke of *Newcastle* and the earl of *Portmore*.

The first of these is remarkable for its terrace, which, from the beautiful variety of its form and plantations, may be said to be, rather, an elevated lawn. It is of a very considerable extent, and is washed by an artificial serpentine river, which is so contrived as to appear a branch of the distant *Thames*, which is seen for many miles together, and with *Walton Bridge*, and a rich distant country, forms one of the most elegant *coup d'oeils*, that can be seen.

The other seat was beautified by the countess of *Dorchester*, in the reign of king *James II.* and commands the conflux of the *Wey* and the *Thames*. Here is a fine walk planted with *Acacia* trees, which, at the time of planting, were esteemed great curiosities.

But, having mentioned *Walton*, I must not pass by the public spirit of the late *Samuel Dicker*, esq; of that place; who applied to parliament, in the session of 1747, for powers to erect a bridge there, the act for which passed in 1747, and the bridge was finished in *August 1750*.

It consists of four stone-piers, between which are three large truss-arches of beams and joists of wood,

* This was a very just description of the place some years ago: but the late lord *Clive*, who purchased it at the death of the duke of *Newcastle*, has transformed the place into a new appearance. The park and gardens have been improved with the utmost art; the old house pulled down, and a new one built in a different and better situation, where no expence was spared to produce the most superb and highly finish'd villa in the neighbourhood of *London*.

strongly

strongly bound together with mortices, iron pins, and cramps. Under these three large arches the water constantly runs; besides which, there are five other arches of brick-work on each side, to make the ascent and descent more easy; but there is seldom water under any of them, except in great floods; and four of them on the *Middlesex* side are stopt up, being on high ground, whither the floods never reach.

The middle arch, when viewed by the river-side, affords an agreeable prospect of the country, beautifully diversified with wood and water, which are seen through it to a considerable distance. The prodigious compass of this great arch, to a person below, occasions an uncommon sensation of awe and surprize, as it appears like an overstretch, or an extreme; and his wonder and attention are raised, when he proceeds to take notice, that all the timbers are in a falling inclination (there not being discoverable one upright piece), and considers also the very small dimensions of the piers that support the whole.

In passing up the bridge, when you come past the brick-work, the vacant interstices between the timbers yield a variety of prospects at every step, which, when at the centre, are seen to great advantage; but though each side of the road is very well secured by the timber and rails, to the height of eight feet; yet, as it affords only a parapet of wide lattice-work, and the apertures even with the eye are large enough to admit the passage of any person to go through, provided he climbs, or is lifted up; and as the water is seen through every opening at a great depth below; those who are not used to such views, cannot approach the side without some little apprehension.

These openings between the braces and rails might have been easily closed with boards; but they are left so, to admit a free passage for the wind and air, to keep the timber more sound, and that any the least decay might be at once perceived and repaired.

Without doubt it is a noble work, and well worth the trouble of visiting. From this bridge to *Hamp-ton*, the same gentleman made a new road, which is kept in good repair, and renders the passage to the bridge very good at all times.

Near *Weybridge* is a pleasant small seat, lately in the possession of *Philip Southcote*, esq; called *Wobourn-farm*. The house is situated low, but is not very damp; and has the advantage of being screened from the violence of strong winds, by tall trees in the neighbourhood. In the front of the house is a small island, which, in summer, is stocked with sheep, which are constantly feeding in view of the principal rooms of the house. The water surrounding this island is conducted in a serpentine form. The fields above the house are kept very neat, being rolled and fed; so that there is a fine carpet of grass, the walks round them being made dry by gravel, and, on each side, planted with sweet shrubs and flowers, in a rural manner. At the upper-part of these fields is a spot of ground laid out in gardens, which, being too regular, do not so well correspond with the other parts, which are laid out to answer the name of a farm very properly; but this part has something of too much stiffness and regularity to agree with the rest.

From this spot of ground is a most delightful prospect over a large extent of meadows bounded by the river *Thames*, which winds in an agreeable manner; and, having frequently large west-country barges sailing on it, with their broad sails, they ap-

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pear as so many moving objects in a picture, and greatly enliven the prospect.

This gentleman was the first who ventured to unbind the shackles, which a false taste had thrown around Nature, and give her freedom and beauty. This place, therefore, besides the eminence it derives from its real beauties, which are very great, claims some respect, as being the first example of that taste and judgement which has since so universally and happily prevailed, in ground-improvements, throughout the kingdom.

From hence also are seen 10 or 12 villages, and several fine houses; and *Chertsey* and *Walton* bridges appear as if they were intended for principal objects. Indeed the whole spot may justly be deemed one of the sweetest retirements near *London*.

Keeping the river now on my left, as I did before on my right hand, drawing nearer to *London*, we came to *Ham* and *Peterham*, little villages; the first, famous for a pleasant palace of the late duke of *Lauderdale*, close by the river, possessed by the late earl of *Dysart*; an house king *Charles II.* used to be frequently at, and was exceedingly pleased with. The avenues of this fine house, to the land-fide, lead up to the end of the village of *Peterham*, where the wall of *New Park* comes also close to the town, on the other fide; in an angle of which stood a delicious house, built by the late earl of *Rochester*, lord high-treasurer in king *James II.*'s reign, as also in part of queen *Anne's* reign. This fine house was burnt down in the year 1720, by an accidental fire, which was so sudden and furious, that the family, who were all at home, had scarce time to save their lives.

Nor was the house, though so exquisitely finished, so beautiful within and without, the greatest loss sustained; the rich furniture, the curious collection of

paintings, and the inestimable library of the first earl of *Clarendon*, lord high chancellor of *England*, were here wholly consumed; a loss irreparable, as the latter contained, among other valuable things, several manuscripts relating to those times, and to things transacted by himself, and by the king his master, both at home and abroad, besides other rare and curious collections made by that noble and learned author in foreign countries.

The offices escaped the fate the house met with: and on the same spot of ground, where the house stood, the late earl of *Harrington* erected another, after a design of the earl of *Burlington*; and when I have said this, I need not say it is equally a convenient and elegant edifice. The front indeed, next the court, has not a very striking appearance, being very plain, and the entrance into the house not greatly to be praised; but the south front next the garden, though very plain, yet is bold and regular. The apartments next the garden, which are chiefly designed for state, are also elegant, and beautifully finished.

The gardens, which before were crowded with plantations near the house, are now laid open in lawns of grass; and the kitchen-garden, which was situated on the east side of the house, is removed out of sight, and that ground is now converted into an open slope of grass, which leads up to a terrace of great length; from whence is a prospect of the river *Thames*, the town of *Twickenham*, and all the beautiful seats round about that part of the country, almost to *Kingston bridge*. On the other side of the terrace, on a rising ground, is a large plantation of wood; and on the summit of the hill is erected a fine pleasure-house, which commands a prospect of the country every way, for many miles: so that by foreigners

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foreigners this view is esteemed the most beautiful of any near *London*.

From hence we came to *Richmond*, one of the summer residences of their present majesties, by whose command, under the direction of Mr. *Brown*, the gardens of this place have undergone an universal improvement. The road which used to pass between the garden and the *Thames* being removed, the form of the magnificent terrace, so much admired in the reign of their late majesties, is entirely changed; and instead of one great, unvaried line, now possesses all the variety which trees and gentle inequalities can give it, and, falling in gentle and shelving slopes to the river, forms a most beautiful bank to that noble stream. The *Dairy-house*, *Hermitage*, *Merlin's Cave*, &c. erected by queen *Caroline*, have been removed, and the improvements of her time have yielded to the modern and better taste. The late princess dowager of *Wales* improved, or I may rather say formed, the gardens, belonging to her houfe at *Kew*, at a great expence. The art and contrivance in the disposition of them is very considerable; though a flat spot, they possess a variety which can alone be owing to the judicious contriver of them. They are adorned with a great number of buildings in the different styles of *European* and *Eastern* architecture; the chief of which is a *Chinese* pagoda of a prodigious height, which, while it commands, forms a striking object for the adjacent country. Here is also a botanical garden, formed under the direction of the late sir *John Hill*, which is said to be one of the best in *Europe*, both for the variety of plants, and its judicious cultivation.

The town of *Richmond* is so well known, and the rich luxuriant prospect of *Richmond-hill* so incapable of being described, that the particulars of the former would be needless, and an attempt at the latter imp-

pertinent. I shall only mention therefore that it has an alms-house, built by *Dupper*, bishop of *Winchester*, in the reign of *Charles II.* pursuant to a vow he made in that king's exile, for the support of ten poor widows. There is also another alms-house, endowed with above 100*l.* a year, which has, since its foundation, been considerably increased by *John Mitchel*, esquire. Here are also two charity-schools, one for 50 boys, the other for 50 girls.

The late lord viscount *Palmerston*, the worthy nephew and successor to the honour and estate of the great sir *William Temple*, had a fine seat and gardens (hard by) at *Sheen*. The gardens were finished, as well as contrived, by the great genius of sir *William*; and as they were his last delight in life, so they were every way suited to be so to a man of his sense and capacity, who knew what kind of life was best fitted to make a man's last days happy.

Roehampton deserves to be particularly mentioned, as it is one of the pleasantest villages near *London*, having many fine houses of merchants, which are properly scattered about, so as not to appear like a street or town; among these is the seat of lord *Bessborough*, a most elegant villa, and considered as a model of convenience. Its architect was sir *William Chambers*.

Putney Common also abounds with many charming and delightful villas. Indeed, few situations are equal to that brow, which, on the *Putney* side, commands the *Thames* and a great extent of highly ornamented country.

On the other side of the *Common* is the pleasant and well inhabited village of *Wimbledon*, adjoining to which is the house and most beautiful park of earl *Spenser*. The house is an elegant villa, in a fine situation, and was built in the reign of queen *Anne* by Sarah dutchess of *Marlborough*. The present

sent noble possessor has spared no expence in improving and adorning this charming retreat.

It is not easy to describe the beauty with which the banks of the *Thames* shine on either side of the river, from *Richmond* to *London*, much more than our ancestors, even but one age ago, knew any thing of. If for pleasant villages, great houses, palaces, gardens, &c. it was true in queen *Elizabeth's* time, according to the poet, that

The Thames with Royal Tyber may compare;

what may be said of it now, when, for one fine house to be seen then, there are, for aught I know, a hundred, even as you sit in a boat, and pass up and down the river?

First, beginning from *Ham-house*, as above, *Richmond Palace* salutes the eye, being formerly no more than a lodge in the park, but now makes a royal figure.

From *Richmond* to *London* the river-sides abound with villages, and those villages so full of beautiful buildings, charming gardens, and rich habitations of people of quality, that nothing can equal it; no, not the country for twenty miles round *Paris*, though that indeed is a kind of prodigy.

It is impossible in one journey to describe effectually this part of the county of *Surry*, lying from *Kingston* to *London* and *Greenwich*, where I set out; I must therefore quit the ample subject, and come to

Southwark, a suburb too, rather than a part of *London*; though it returns two members to parliament; and of which this may be said with justice, that it would be

A royal city, were not London by.

To

To give you a brief description of *Southwark*, it might be called a long street, of about nine miles in length, as it is now built on eastward; reaching from *Vaux-hall* to *London-bridge*, and from the bridge to *Deptford*, and up to *Deptford bridge*, which parts it from *Greenwich*, all the way winding and turning as the river does; except only in that part, which reaches from *Cuckold's Point* to *Deptford*, which winds somewhat more than the river.

In the centre, which is opposite to the bridge, it is thickened with buildings, and may be reckoned near a mile broad; viz. from the bridge to the end of *Kent-street* and *Blackman street*, and about the *Mint*.

The borough of *Southwark* is exceeding populous. Take it as it was anciently bounded, it contained nine parishes; but as it is now extended, and joins with *Deptford*, it contains eleven large parishes.

A further description of *Southwark* I defer till I come to speak of *London*, as one general appellation for the two cities of *London* and *Westminster*; for all the borough of *Southwark*, and all the buildings and villages included within the bills of mortality, make but one *LONDON*, in the general appellation.

I shall close this account of *Surry* with relating a diffusive charity of one Mr. *Smith*, commonly called *Dog Smith*, on account of his being always accompanied by a dog. This person was a silversmith in the city of *London*; and, after having acquired a large fortune in that trade, he quitted it, and took to begging, in which calling he continued many years, raising contributions on most of the inhabitants in this and the neighbouring counties. But the inhabitants of the town of *Mitcham*, having exercised the legal authority, and whipped him out of their town as a common vagrant, he gave an instance at

his

his death of his having remembered the favour they had conferred upon him; for in his will he left to the poor of every market-town in this county fifty pounds per annum each; and to every other parish in *Surry*, six or eight pounds yearly, more or less, at the discretion of his trustees, except *Mitcham*, which he excluded from any benefit arising from his estate.

LETTER

L E T T E R V.

Containing a DESCRIPTION of Part of the County of MIDDLESEX, Part of HANTS, and the County of WILTS, &c.

AS I came down from *Kingston*, in my last circuit, by the south bank of the *Thames*, on the *Surry* side of the river; I now go up to *Hampton-court*, on the north bank, and on the *Middlesex* side; which I mention, because, as the sides of the country bordering on the river lie parallel, so the beauty of the country, the pleasant situations, the splendor of innumerable fine buildings, noblemen's and gentlemen's houses and citizens' retreats, are so equal a match to what I had described on the other side, that one knows not to which to give the preference: but as I must speak of them again, when I come to write of the county of *Middlesex*, which I have now purposely omitted; I pass them over here, except the palace of *Hampton* only, which I mentioned in *Middlesex*, for the reasons above.

Hampton court lies on the north bank of the river *Thames*, about two miles from *Kingston*. It was built by cardinal *Wolsey*, and fell to the crown, when the king seized his effects and estate, as did also *Whitball*, another house of the cardinal's building.

Whoever knew *Hampton-court* before it was begun to be rebuilt, or altered, by the late king *William*, must acknowledge, it was a very complete place then, and fit for a king; and though it might not, according to the modern method of building, pass for a thing exquisitely fine, yet it shewed a situation exceedingly capable of improvement.

This

This her majesty queen *Mary* was so sensible of, that while the king had ordered the pulling down the old apartments, and building them up in that most beautiful form in which we see them now appear, her majesty, impatient of enjoying so agreeable a retreat, fixed upon a building, formerly made use of, chiefly for landing from the river, and therefore called the *Water-gallery*. Here she ordered all the little, neat, curious things to be done, which suited her own conveniency; and made it the pleasantest little palace within doors, that could possibly be made; though its situation would not allow it to stand after the great building was finished.

The queen had here her gallery of beauties, being the pictures, at full length, of the principal ladies in her retinue. Her majesty's apartments, for her private retreat only, were exquisitely furnished; and there were among the furniture several curious pieces of her own work.

The ground on the south-west side of the building has received many alterations since the pulling down of the *Water-gallery*, which stood before this handsome front of the house, and intercepted the prospect of it from the river. This spot was then laid out into small inclosures, surrounded with tall hedges, to break the violence of the winds, and render them proper for the reception of such exotic plants in summer, as were moved out of the conservatories during that season. In each of these places is contrived a basin, which is constantly supplied with water for the support of these plants in dry weather; and as these are situated near the great apartments, most of the plants may be viewed from the windows; and the lower part of the house, under the great apartments, being contrived for a green-house, the plants need not be carried far, when they are removed out of or into

into the conservatory ; which was very properly contrived by the designers.

At the west-end of this spot was a large hot-house, for the maintaining such tender exotic plants as require warmth to preserve them in this climate. Of all these parts of gardening queen *Mary* was so very fond, that she allowed an handsome salary to Dr. *Plukennet*, a learned botanist, for overlooking and registering the curious collection of plants which were then in that garden ; but, since the death of that queen, these things have been so much neglected, that very few of the most curious plants are now in being there ; which is much to be lamented.

Here stand advanced, on two pedestals of stone, two marble vases, or flower-pots, of exquisite workmanship ; the one done by the famous statuary, Mr. *Cibber*, father of the late poet-laureat and celebrated comedian, and the other by a foreigner.

The parterre on that side descends from the terrace-walk by steps ; and on the left a terrace goes down the water side, overlooking the garden on the eastward front, and affords a fine prospect.

On the north-side of the house, where the chapel and some part of the old buildings required to be covered from view, the ground was laid out in a wilderness, with a labyrinth surrounded by high espalier hedges ; and this was, at that time, thought one of the finest disposed parts of the garden. But as the whole contrivance of the plantations is in regular straight walks, to every person of taste it must be very far from affording any pleasure, since nothing can be more disagreeable than to be immured between hedges, so as to have the eye confined to a straight walk, and the beauty of the trees growing in the quarters intirely secluded from sight.

As this wilderness lies opposite to *Bushy-park*, there was designed a grand entrance through it to the palace

lace fronting the gates of the park; where two large piers were erected, to support a magnificent iron gate, which was designed to have been put up there; but how it came to be left unfinished, and the pitiful low gates (which by no means correspond with the pillars) put in the place, I could never learn.

The palace within is by much the noblest of any of the royal houses; and the state apartments, and their conveniences, are laid out with great judgement.

King *William* brought into *England*, and placed here in a gallery, built purposely for them, the famous *Cartoons*, as they are called; which are seven pieces of such paintings as are not to be matched in *Europe*. It is reported, that the late *French* king offered 100,000 louis d'ors for these pictures; which are since removed to the queen's palace, *St. James's Park*, and other small ones placed in their room, which, by no means, fit the places.

There were, in all, 12 of these drawings; two the king of *France* has, and two the king of *Sardinia*; the other was in the possession of a private gentleman in *England*, who pledged it for a sum of money. And when the person who lent the money found it was to be redeemed (which he was very unwilling it should be), he damaged the drawing very much; so that the gentleman brought his action, and it was tried in *Westminster-hall*. The subject was *Herod's* cruelty; and really the cruelty of the person sued towards the picture seems to be owing to principles more inexcusable, as to the motive, than those of *Herod*.

The king brought a great many other fine pieces to *England*; and from him the love of fine paintings so universally spread itself among the nobility and persons of figure all over the kingdom, that it is incredible what collections have been made by
English

English gentlemen since that time; and how all *Europe* has been rummaged for pictures to bring over hither.

Queen *Mary* lived not to see this palace completely finished; and, it is said, king *William* designed to have made it more capacious and noble, had he lived.

After the death of king *William*, *Hampton court* seemed in a manner neglected. It is an observation made by some, that *Hampton-court* has, ever since the time of king *Charles I.* been favoured by every alternate prince. King *Charles I.* delighting in country retirements, took great pleasure here; and, had he lived, had purposed to improve it considerably; but it became at last one of his prisons.

King *Charles II.* may well be said to have a dislike to the place, for the treatment his royal father met with there; and particularly as *Cromwell* afterwards made it his summer-residence. He therefore chose *Windfor* (now one of the favourite retreats of their present majesties), and bestowed vast sums in beautifying the castle there, which brought it to the perfection we see it in at this day, some few alterations excepted, made in the time of king *William*.

King *James II.* took but little delight in retired pala es. But king *William* (others say queen *Mary*) fixed upon *Hampton-court*, and improved it, as before mentioned.

Queen *Anne*, being taken up, for one part of her reign, in her kind regards to the prince her husband, was obliged to consult his health, and reside where that confined him; which, for the most part, was at *Kensington*, where he died in 1708: but her majesty always discovered her delight in *Windfor*, where she chose the little house, as it was called, opposite to the castle, and frequently took the air in her chaise in the parks and forest.

The

The fine old hall, built by the cardinal, and fitted up in the hunting style, with various kinds of stags and deers heads (some of them very curious), was turned into a playhouse in queen Anne's time, and still wears that appearance.

In the reign of king George I. Hampton-court came into request. But his late majesty was but seldom there.

I ought not to omit the mention of the battles of Alexander, wrought in fine Brussels tapestry, and put up at this palace a few years ago; which are well worth the observation of the curious.

We must not quit Hampton without taking notice of Mr. Garrick's delightful villa, which is, without exception, one of the most pleasing retreats about the metropolis. It is a nut-shell of delights; and, though it does not contain above six acres of ground, yet the plantation is so arranged and diversified, that the extent of the whole appears to be infinitely greater than it is; and wherever the eye is interrupted or checked in its view, the termination is always beautiful. It is all fairy ground, adorned with the most stately trees, and here the most beautiful shrubs and exotic plants are seen in great profusion. At the north end of the garden is a mount, which commands an extensive view into Surry. From thence you pass, by a gradual descent, through an arch, when a fine prospect of the Thames and Molesey-hurst presents itself to your view. In this situation, you are not a little surprized, when, looking around you, you observe, that the high road divides the garden from the river :

*So fair Alphæus, through some secret sluice,
Sub terra steals, to meet his Arethuse.*

The bank on the river side is planted with the lovers plaintive weeping willow, and, excepting one
I have

I have seen in *Kew* gardens, they are the finest the eye could wish to behold. At the west end of the terrace, is a temple dedicated to the immortal *Shakespeare*—an elegant piece of plain architecture. Fronting the door stands the figure of the sweet bard, leaning on his hand. This superb statue is of white marble, and is a master-piece of the great *Roubiliac*. Added to this paradise of sweets, is an excellent fruit garden, in which such protecting methods are used to help and defend the blossoms, that few nobles in the land boast of so excellent a variety. The house and plantations may vie with every thing *Tuscan* or *Italian*; nor had *Tivoli* more learned, more witty, nor more noble guests, though *Augustus* was emperor, *Mæcenas* minister, and *Ovid* and *Virgil* visitants. The paintings are many of them of the first pencil, some of *Hogarth's*, and more of the best *Italian* masters: those of the lower rooms are some well-executed views of *Naples*. But Mrs. *Garrick's* taste is so universally approved and admired, that whatever comes from her hands may be called classically perfect.

From *Hampton-court*, I directed my course for a journey into the south-west part of *England*; and, to take up my beginning where I concluded my last, I crossed to *Chertsey* on the *Thames*, from whence I crossed the *Black Desart* of *Bagshot*, in my way to *Hampshire*.

I fell down towards *Basingstoke*, which is situate in the midst of woods, and rich fertile pastures: the country round about is spread with the houses of the nobility and gentry. A little before we came to the town, we passed by a house built out of the ruins and on the site of *Old Basing-house*, a famous fortress, in the time of the civil wars, belonging to the then marquis of *Winchester*, ancestor of the duke of *Beaufort*.

This house, garrisoned by a resolute band of old soldiers, under the command of the marquis, was a great curb to the parliament-party throughout that whole war ; till, after a vigorous defence, it was taken, and the brave marquis in it, by *Cromwell*, who, in revenge for the obstinate resistance it made, cut almost all the garrison to the sword, and burnt down the noble fabric to the ground, which, he said, was fitter for the residence of an emperor than a subject. The present house is in no wise equal to the magnificence which fame gives to the ancient house ; whose strength of building was such as to resist the battery of cannon in several attacks. It is incredible what booty the garrison of this place picked up, lying, as they did, just on the great western road, where they intercepted the carriers, plundered the waggons, and suffered nothing to pass, to the great interruption of the trade of the city of *London*.

Basingstoke is a large and populous town; it is a mayor-town, with a recorder, seven aldermen, seven capital burgesses, and other officers. Near the church is a free-school. It has a good market for corn, especially barley, as there are a great many maltsters there. Some few years ago, a manufacture of druggets and shalloons was set up here, and successfully carried on, which employs a great number of poor people.

Near this town a bloody battle was fought in 871, between the *Saxons* and the *Danes*.

From this town the great western road goes on to *Witchechurh*, a mean town, which however has a market, is governed by a mayor, and returns two members to parliament. Its chief trade is in shalloons, drugges, &c.

Near this town is a fine seat of the earl of *Portsmouth*; to which belongs a very large park, beautified with

with wood and water; and the irregularity of the ground (it having many rising hills in it) renders the prospects very agreeable.

North-east of *Whitchurch* lies *Kingsclere*, a pleasant market town on the *Oxford* road from *Basingstoke*. It was anciently famous for having been the seat of the *Saxon* kings, and from thence takes its name.

But I had like to have forgott the famous *Vindomium*, or *Silchester*, which is situated in *Hants*, on the borders of *Berkshire*, and noted for its antiquity.

Its situation is high, hid with wood. Many were the *Roman* roads which met here, though now there is scarce any that leads to it; which is one reason why it is so little known; another is, its want of inns for the accommodation of travellers; for *Aldermaston*, a pretty neat village, beautifully situated, which is three miles distant, is the nearest town where lodging is to be found. The walls of this city are standing more or less perfect, quite round; perhaps the most intire in the *Roman* empire, especially the north-side, which is a most agreeable sight. It is composed of flint and rag-stone. There was a broad ditch quite round, now almost impassable, and full of springs. Here-and-there *Roman* bricks are left in the walls. Though on the outside they are of a considerable height, yet the ground within is so raised, as nearly to be equal to the top, and that covered quite round with oaks, and other timber-trees, of no mean bulk. *Constantius*, the son of *Constantine the Great*, is said to have built it, and sowed corn in the track of the walls, as an omen of their perpetuity. Now indeed the whole city is arable, and in the fields *Roman* brick, and other reliques, are scattered, and coins daily found. It has only one farm-house, and a church. Mr. *Betham*, the late minister of this place, is buried under the north wall of the chancel without-side; within is another monument of a person

of quality. They both were drowned in *Fleet-ditch*. A spring rises from under the wall of the church-yard.

Five hundred feet without the city, on the north-east side, is an amphitheatre, like that of *Dorchester*. This noble piece of antiquity has, from time immemorial, been a yard for cattle, and a watering pond; so that it is a wonder their trampling has not defaced it much more than it has.

Alresford was a flourishing market-town, and though it had no great trade, and very little, if any, manufactures, yet, what is very remarkable, there was no collection made in the town for the poor, nor any low enough to take alms of the parish.

But this happy circumstance, which so distinguished *Alresford* from all her neighbours, was brought to an end in 1710, when, by a sudden and surprising fire, the whole town, with both the church and market-house, were reduced to an heap of rubbish; and, except a few poor huts at the remotest ends of the town, not an house left standing. The town is since very handsomely rebuilt; and the neighbouring gentlemen contributed largely to the relief of the people, especially by sending in timber towards their building. It hath now a very great market every Thursday, particularly about *Michaelmas*, for sheep, corn, &c. and a small market-house standing on wooden pillars.

Here is a very large pond, or lake of water, kept up to an head by a strong *Battre d'Eau*, or dam, which, it is said, was made by the *Romans*; and is part of the great *Roman* highway, which leads from *Winchester* to *Alton*, and, as supposed, on to *London*; though we no where see any remains of it, except between *Winchester* and *Alton*, and chiefly between this town and the last-mentioned.

Near this town, a little north-west, the duke of *Bolton* has another seat, which, though not large, is a handsome beautiful palace, and the gardens not only very exact, but finely situate, the prospect and vistas noble and great, and the whole well kept. This house is now pulled down, and the materials carried to *Hackwood-house* near *Basingstoke*.

Near this, north, are two other noble seats; one at *Grainge*, belonging to the earl of *Northington*, and built from a design of *Inigo Jones*; the second at *Chilton-Condover*, built by sir *Robert Worley*, bart.

From hence, at the end of seven miles over the *Downs*, we come to the very ancient city of *Winchester*, called, by the Romans, *Ventæ Belgarum*, being then of very great note; and, in British, *Caer Gwent*, which signifies the white town, from the chalky hills near it. Not only the great church, which is famous all over *Europe*, but even the whole city, has, at a distance, a venerable and ancient face; and yet here are many modern buildings, and some very handsome; as the college-schools, with the episcopal palace, built since the civil wars by bishop *Mortley*, who laid out 2300*l.* for that use, but, dying before it was finished, he left 500*l.* more to complete it. The same worthy bishop, in 1672, erected the college in the cathedral church-yard, for 10 ministers widows, and endowed it with a handsome yearly revenue.

The shire-hall within the castle was built like an old chapel, with a body supported by pillars, and two aisles. Over the court of *Nisi Prius*, above the judge's seat, is fixed against the wall king *Arthur's* round-table, with the names of the knights upon it.

As to the tale of this round table, and king *Arthur's* 24 knights, which table, being one piece of wood, they still shew hanging up in the town-hall, said to be part of the said castle, as a piece of antiquity.

antiquity of 1200 years standing, and has, as they pretend, the names of the said knights in *Saxon* characters, and yet such as no man can read: there is no ground to give the least credit to it; for it appears to be of a later date, as *Camden* observes.

The church, and the schools also, are accurately described by several writers, especially by the *Monafrican*, where their antiquity and original is fully set forth. The outside of the church is plain; there is not (except one at the west-end) either statue, or niche for statue, to be seen on the outside.

The north side is most injudiciously hid by an high wall.

The rood tower is carried up but a very little height above the roof, seemingly not more than 25 feet; and has no proper finishing, but is covered in, as if the building had been left off, which, very probably, might be the case, for there is strength enough below to support a steeple higher than that of *Salisbury*.

When one enters at the west door, under the middle aisle, and takes a view of it, it has a very venerable and majestic appearance. About 300 feet from the door, is a low screen, which parts the choir from the nave, but does not intercept the view to the east end, the organ being fixed towards the middle of the north-side of the choir.

The vaulting of the roof is beautiful; but, looking on each side, one is offended with the massy pillars, whose diameters are much too thick for the spaces of the arches.

Another great deformity is the inclosure of the tomb of *William of Wickham*, which, being very high, and erected between two of the pillars of the aisle on the south side; projects considerably, on both sides, beyond the line of those pillars, and so renders those vistas irregular.

The entrance into the choir is by a noble flight of steps, the whole breadth of the middle aisle. The screen is a fine piece of architecture, of the composite order. On each side of the great arch of the entrance are two recesses, enriched with entablatures and compass pediments; wherein are placed the statues of the kings *James* and *Charles the first*, finely cast in copper.

This screen was designed by *Inigo Jones*; but, being *Grecian*, is by no means proper to be joined with the *Gothic*. One would imagine, that *Inigo's* pride would not deign to let him give into *Gothic* building; for, in repairing part of old *Paul's*, he, as far as was practicable, *Romanized* that building; though sir *Christopher Wren*, whose name is very great, would perhaps have done otherwise. Sir *Christopher* was not so stiff, as to lay down for a rule, that every edifice was to be despised which was not copied from the buildings of *Greece* and *Italy*: himself has given noble specimens, what the force of genius can do, besides imitating.

The cross, from north to south, is quite shut out of the choir by wooden partitions carried up a vast height; this, which is the ancientest part of the church, is by much the plainest; and, the vaulting being left unfinished, all the timbers of the roof are exposed to view.

The stile of building in this part is greatly different from the east and west part: the arches are turned semicircular, and the pillars are of another form, and have a nearer resemblance of one of the five orders; and this kind of building is what sir *Christopher Wren* describes to be the true *Gothic* building; and all buildings with peaked arches, he says, should properly be called *Saxon*, and not *Gothic*, buildings, the *Saxons* being the inventors of it: and sir *Christopher*, in his treatise

treatise concerning *Westminster-abby*, gives reasons very conclusive for his opinion.

The stalls in the choir are of fine Gothic workmanship; to which the bishop's throne, erected at the expence of bishop *Mew*, would have been a great additional ornament, had it been Gothic, and of a piece with the rest of the choir.

The stone-screen, where the high altar is placed, is an exceeding fine and tender piece of Gothic work; but, in the angles of the niches, where formerly were images, the raised panels have been chipt away, to make room for fixing a parcel of sorry urns, or vases, which disgrace this fine piece, and make it mere botchery.

Having heard the altar much praised, I viewed it with attention.

If by the altar is meant the wood-work erected by bishop *Morley*, I own, I saw nothing in that piece to be admired. It projects over the communion-table like a canopy, and is coved underneath to the front. At the extremity of the front hang two large festoons: they are gilt, as are likewise all the carvings and mouldings; but this piece is rather mean and tawdry, than grand or striking. The badness of the painted decorations around the commandments, and the writings of them, are a disgrace to the church; and, upon the whole, this altar is not comparable to that in the great church at *St. Albans*.

Within this church are many things worthy of observation. It was, for some ages, the burying-place of many English, Saxon, and Norman kings; whose remains the impious soldiers, in the civil wars, threw against the painted glass. The reliques of some of these, at the repair of the church, were collected by bishop *Fox*; and, being put together into six large wooden chests, lined with lead, were placed on the great wall in the choir, three on one side, and

three on the other; with an account whose bones are in each chest; viz. *Egbert*, who died in 835; *Adolphus*, in 859; *Edredus*, in 955; *Edmundus*, *Canutus*, and those of queen *Emma*.

A great many persons of rank are buried in this church, besides the *Saxon* kings mentioned above.

At the west end of this church is a window, on the glass of which was painted the history of the *Old Testament*; but at present the glass is in a very shattered condition, owing, as is said, to wantonness of idle children.

At the east end also is a window, on the glass of which, in painting, are represented three figures, which are said to be designed for the *Virgin Mary*, her son *Jesus Christ*, and *God the father*.

Over the door of the school stands a very good statue of the founder, made by Mr. *Cibber*, whose workmanship are the two excellent figures over *Bethleham-gate*, in *London*. He was the father of the late *Colley Cibber*, esquire, poet-laureat.

The clergy here live very elegantly in the *Close* belonging to the cathedral; where, besides the bishop's palace, are very good houses, handsomely built, for the prebendaries, and other dignitaries of this church. The deanry is a very pleasant dwelling, the gardens are large, and the river runs through them; but the floods in winter sometimes much inconvenience them.

As the city stands in a vale on the bank, and at the conjunction of two small rivers, so the country rising every way, but just as the course of the water keeps the valley open, you must necessarily, as you go out of the gates, go up hill every way; but, when once ascended, you come to the most charming plains in *England*, which continue, with very small intersections of rivers and valleys, for above 50 miles.

Here lived *Constans*, the monk, who was made *Cæsar*, and afterwards emperor, by his father *Constantine**; both of whom usurped the government in opposition to *Honorius*.

At the south-side of the west gate of this city, was anciently a castle, in which, it is said, the *Saxon* kings kept their court; which however is doubtful, and must be meant of the *West Saxons* only. This castle has been often besieged; particularly once by king *Stephen*, with his implacable enemy the empress *Maud* in it; and that so closely, that the empress caused a report of her death to be spread, and, being put into a coffin, was carried out as a corpse, and so escaped.

Near the place where this castle stood, the late king *Charles II.* began (under the direction of sir *Christopher Wren*) a very noble design of a royal palace, which, had he lived, and finished it, would certainly have made that part of the country the resort of the quality and gentry of all parts of the kingdom; for the country hereabouts far exceeds that of *Newmarket-heath* for all kinds of sport and diversion.

The foundation was laid *March 23, 1683*, (in the digging for which they found a pavement of bricks and coins of *Constantine the Great*, and others). There was particularly intended a large cupola, 30 feet above the roof, which would have been seen a great way at sea. The south-side is 216 feet, and the west 326; and the shell, when it was discontinued, is said to have cost 25,000*l.* for the building was so far prosecuted, that it was carried up to the roof, and covered.

The centre of this palace being exactly in a line with the centre of the west-end of the cathedral, the

* This *Constantine* was a man of low birth, and little known.

city was to have been laid open the breadth of the transept or cross of the cathedral, from north to south, in a street about 200 feet broad from the palace to the cathedral in a direct line; and on each side were to have been built houses for the nobility, and persons of rank; the ground for which, and for the parks, was actually procured. The parks were to be near ten miles in circumference, and were to end west upon the open *Downs*, in view of Stockbridge.

The principal floor is a noble range of apartments, 20 feet high.

This house, with a royal revenue, was afterwards settled by parliament, as an appendage upon prince George of Denmark for his life, in case he had outlived the queen; but his royal highness died before her majesty. And now all hope of seeing this design perfected, or the house finished, is vanished. His late majesty king George I. made a present to the duke of Bolton of the fine pillars of Italian marble, which were to have supported its stair-case; and were said to be a present to the king from the great duke of Tuscany. It was fitted up for a prison for the French, taken captive in the late wars between the two nations; and contains no less than 160 rooms; in which, June 14, 1762, I was assured by the colonel on duty, there were confined upwards of 5000 of those unhappy wretches.

There are several other public edifices in this city, and in the neighbourhood, which I have not room to describe; as the hospitals, and building adjoining near the east gate. Towards the north is a piece of an old monastery undemolished, and which is still preserved to the religion, being the residence of some private Roman catholic gentlemen, where they have an oratory, and, as they say, live still according to the rules of St. Benedict. This building is called

Hid-

Hide-house; and, as they live very usefully, and to the highest degree obliging, among their neighbours, they meet with no obstruction from any body. This town is now paved like *London*.

In the high-street is a beautiful market-cross, having five steps round it, which, with the place about it, serves at present for a fish-market; there is also, in the same street, a large handsome town-hall for the city, erected on *Doric* pillars, in a niche, in the front of which is a statue of queen *Anne*, with this inscription, *Anno Pacifico Anna Regina 1713*.—But the lower part of this building is disgraced by being used as mean dwellings for cooks shops, barbers, &c.

Beyond the river *Itchin* eastward is an high hill, called *St. Giles's*, from an hospital whose ruins only are now visible; and a church-yard, seeming to have been a camp, besides the marks of bastions, and works of fortifications in the modern stile. Here *Waltheof*, earl of *Northumberland* and *Huntingdon*, was beheaded by order of king *William I.* whose body was carried to *Cowland*, and said to work miracles.

Winchester is about a mile and half within the walls: it is a place of no trade, other than is naturally occasioned by the inhabitants of the city, and neighbouring villages, one with another; here is no manufacture, no navigation; there was indeed an attempt to make the river navigable from *Southampton*, and it was once made practicable; but it never answered the expence, so as to give encouragement to the undertakers to keep it up.

Here is a great deal of good company; and abundance of gentry being in the neighbourhood adds to the sociableness of the place: the clergy also here are, generally speaking, rich, and very numerous.

The hospital called of *St. Cross*, on the south of this city, at a mile's distance on the road to *South-*

ampton, is worth notice : it was founded by bishop *Blois*, and greatly enlarged and augmented by cardinal *Beaufort*, whose statue is placed in a niche over the gate. The church is in the form of a cross, and has a large square tower, being one of the oldest buildings in *England*. Every traveller, that knocks at the door of this house, in his way, and asks for it, claims the relief of a piece of white bread, and a cup of beer ; which donation is continued to this day.

How the revenues of this hospital, which should maintain the master and 30 private gentlemen, whom they call fellows, but ought to call brothers, are now reduced to maintain only 14, while the master lives in a figure equal to the best gentleman in the county, would be well worth the inquiry of a proper visitor, if such can be named. It is a subject that calls for animadversion more than almost any other, when public charities, designed for the relief of the poor, are embezzled by the rich, and turned to the support of luxury and pride.

The city is governed by a mayor, recorder, six aldermen, and 12 burgesses ; and returns two members to parliament.

I made an excursion from *Winchester*, to see the ancient town of *Romsey*, noted for its delightful situation, having all round it woods, corn-fields, meadows, and pastures. The river, and rivulets, which are many, have a rapid course. The town was questionless *Roman*, and its name declares as much. The church is a large, noble, ancient pile of building, in form of a cross, with semicircular chapels in the angles.

The building is in the same taste and manner with the oldest part of *Winchester* cathedral. It has lately been beautified ; but the roof of the south cross is decayed, and, if not repaired, will shortly fall in.

On the outside of the north cross are the marks of some cannon-balls, which, in the civil wars, were fired to batter down the church; but they did no great damage to it.

Another thing here worth notice is, that, upon the leads of the side-aile towards the east, in a corner where some rubbish and dirt lies, there grows a pretty large apple-tree, which bears a good quantity of fruit; and is thought such a curiosity, that it is sent about for presents. At the west end is the piece of an old wall, probably belonging to the nunnery built here by king *Edgar*. At this place is a pretty market-house, and a market on *Saturdays*; as also a free-school. The staple commodity of this town is a manufacture of shalloons. It took its name from being, before the Reformation, peculiarly subject to the jurisdiction of the pope or see of *Rome*, *Romesey*.

About a quarter of a mile from this town we saw *Broadlands*, the seat of lord *Palmerston*; the house is just finished in a taste which deserves very particular attention. The gardens are very delightful, and kept with great care.

Returning to *Winchester*, we struck up north-west, and came to *Stockbridge*, a sorry borough-town, which nevertheless returns two members to parliament; and being a great thorough-fare on the south-western road, it has many good inns, and those as well provided as any on that road, though it has no market.

Stockbridge is governed by a bailiff, constable, and serjeants.

Still riding northward, we arrived at *Andover*, a mayor, market, and borough-town, and also noted for being a great thorough-fare on the direct western road, as well from *Newbury* to *Salisbury*, as from *London* to *Taunton*, and all the manufacturing towns of *Somersetshire*, whereby it is greatly enriched, and is a thriving, handsome, well-built, and populous

town. Here is an hospital for six men, built and endowed by Mr. Pollen, a member for this borough, and a free-school founded in 1569. The town is very healthy, and pleasantly situated just on the borders of those *Downs*, which are commonly, though not properly, called *Salisbury-plains*.

Near this town is a village called *Weyhill*, where the open Down-country begins; and here, upon these *Downs*, is the famous *Weyhill*, where the greatest fair for sheep in the nation is kept; and principally of ewes, for store-sheep for the farmers of the counties of *Berks*, *Oxford*, *Bucks*, *Bedford*, *Hertford*, *Middlesex*, *Kent*, *Surry*, and *Sussex*, who send for them to this place.

From *Audover* we bent our way towards *Wiltshire*, by *Quarley-bills*, on the west-side of which are the remains of a great fortification, consisting of two outward trenches, and other works of great strength; and then entering that county, and leaving *Luggershall*, a small hamlet-town, noted only for returning two members to parliament, and for having been formerly the castle of *Geffrey Fitzpiers*, earl of *Essex*, in 1199, and lord chief justice; on the north of us, we came to *Ambresbury*, a very ancient town, pretty large, standing on the river *Avon*, and having several good inns; but its market is much decayed, and almost discontinued. It is said to have taken its name from *Ambrius*, who founded here a monastery of *Benedictines* long before the coming-in of the *Saxons*, who destroyed it; or from *Aurelius Ambros*, a British prince, who rebuilt it, and filled it with 300 monks, to pray for the souls of those noble Britons, who were slain by the perfidious *Hengist* the *Saxon*, who massacred here, in cold blood, 300 of their British nobility, whom he had invited, with their king *Vortigern*, to meet him without arms, to treat

treat of a league of amity, and rejoice together. The treacherous *Saxon* saved only the king, whom he obliged to give him near a third of his kingdom eastward, before he would set him at Liberty.

The monastery at *Ambresbury* was converted into a nunnery; and *Eleanor*, king *Henry III's* queen, retired and died here; whose example induced the princess *Mary*, king *Edward* the second's daughter, and 13 noblemen's daughters, to take the veil together in this house. In the wall of the abbey we saw an old grave-stone, supposed of queen *Guenever*, king *Arthur's* wife.

Here is a seat belonging to the duke of *Queenberry*, built by *Inigo Jones*. The present duke has made great improvements in his gardens, having inclosed and planted a large steep hill, at the foot of which the river *Avon* very beautifully winds, as also through the greatest part of the garden.

On the bridge, over this river, is built a room after the manner of the *Chinese*.

The stupendous piece of antiquity, called *Stone-henge*, deserves our particular notice; and I shall therefore borrow from Dr. *Stukeley's* piece, intituled, " *Stone-henge, a Temple restored to British Druids*," the following brief account and description of it :

The *Wiltshire-downs*, or *Salisbury-plain*, is one of the most delightful spots in *Britain*; and *Stone-henge* has attracted the admiration of all ages. Mr. *Camden* says of it, That he was grieved, that the founders of it could not be traced out; but Dr. *Stukeley* has made it probable, that it was a temple of the *British Druids*, and the chief of all their temples in this island.

The stones of which it was composed are not factitious, but natural jasper; for that would have been a greater wonder, than to bring them together to the place where they are; but were brought 15 or

16 miles off, prodigious as they are, from those called the *Grey Wethers*, near *Abury*, on *Marlborough-downs*, all the greater stones, except the altar, being of that sort; for that, being designed to resist fire, is of a still harder kind*: It is a composition of crystals, red, green, and white colours, cemented by nature with opake granules of flinty or stony matter. The stone at the upper-end of the cell, which is fallen down, and broken in half, the Doctor tells us, weighs above 40 tons, and would require above 140 oxen to draw it; and yet is not the heaviest of them. Judge then what a stupendous labour it was to bring together, so many miles, such a number as were used here; and this has induced many inconsiderate people to imagine, that the founders had an art of making stone, which has been lost for many ages.

The present name is *Saxon*, though the work is, beyond all comparison, older, signifying an hanging stone, from the hanging parts, or imposts; pendulous rocks are still, in *Yorkshire*, called *benges*.

Stone-henge stands near the summit of an hill; at half a mile distance, the appearance is awful; but as you come up the avenue in the north-east of it, which side is most perfect, the greatness of its contour fills the eye in an astonishing manner. It is inclosed in a circular ditch, which having passed, we ascend 35 yards before we come at the work. The stones are chiseled, and the inside of them had more pains bestowed on them than the outside.

When you enter the building, whether on foot or horseback, and cast your eyes around upon the yawning ruins, you are struck into a reverie, which no one can describe, and they only can be sensible of

* Some seem to think, they were lying scattered above ground in the neighbourhood, and that this circumstance encouraged the building; but the stones not proving sufficient in quantity for the purpose prevented the design being finished.

who

who feel it. Other buildings fall by piece-meal, but here a single stone is a ruin. Yet is there as much undemolished, as enables us sufficiently to recover its form, when in its most perfect state. When we advance farther, the dark part of the ponderous imposts over our heads, the chasms of sky between the jambs of the cell, the odd construction of the whole, and greatness of every part, surprize. If you look upon the perfect part, you fancy intire quarries mounted up into the air; if upon the rude havock below, you see, as it were, the bowels of a mountain turned inside out.

The whole work, being of a circular form, is about 108 feet in diameter, from out to out. The intention of the founders was this: the whole circle was to consist of 30 stones, each stone to be four cubits * broad, each interval two cubits; 30 times four cubits is twice 60; 30 times two cubits is 60; so that thrice 60 cubits complete a circle, whose diameter is 60. A stone being four cubits broad, and two thick, is double the interval, which is a square of two cubits. Change the places between the stones and their intervals, and it will make a good ground-plot for a circular portico of *Greek* or *Roman* work; though these bodies of stone, which are in the nature of imposts, are wrought perfectly plain, and suitable to the stones that support them; and the chiseling of the upright stones is only above-ground; for the four or five feet in length below-ground is left in the original natural form. The upright stones are made very judiciously to diminish a little way; so that at top they are but three cubits and a half broad, and so much nearer, as to suffer their imposts to meet a little over the heads of the uprights, both

* This cubit is the old *Hebrew*, *Phœnician*, or *Egyptian* cubit, and what the founders of *Stone-henge* went by, and amounts to 20 inches four-fifths *English* measure.

within

within-side and without; by which means the uprights are less liable to fall or swerve.

It is to be feared, some indiscreet people have been digging about the great entrance, with ridiculous hopes of finding treasure, and so have loosened the chalky foundation; for the upper edge of the impost overhangs no less than two feet seven inches, which is very considerable in an height of 18. The whole breadth at the foundation is but two feet and a half; and this noble front is now chiefly kept up by the mortice and tenon of the imposts.

The contrivance of the founders in making mortices and tenons between the upright stones and the imposts is admirable; but so contrary to any practice of the *Romans*, that it alone overlets their claim to the work. These tenons and mortices of this outer circle are round, and fit one another very aptly. They are ten inches and one half in diameter, and resemble half an egg, rather an hemisphere; and so effectually keep both uprights and imposts from laxation, that they must have been thrown down with great difficulty and labour. The whole height of the upright and impost is ten cubits and a half; the upright, nine; the impost over the grand entrance is, in its middle length, 11 feet 10 inches, and so is larger than the rest; and it is also a little broader, measuring on the inside.

Of the outer circle of *Stone-henge*, which, in its perfection, consisted of 60 stones, 30 upwards, and 30 imposts, there are 17 uprights left standing, 11 of which remain continuous by the grand entrance; five imposts upon them. One upright, at the back of the temple, leans upon a stone of the inner circle. There are six more lying upon the ground, whole, or in pieces; so that 24 out of 30 are still visible at the place. There is but one impost more in its proper place, and but two lying upon the ground; so that

22 are carried off. Hence our author infers, this temple was not defaced, when christianity prevailed; but that some rude hands carried the stones away for other uses*. So much for the larger circle of stones with imposts.

As to the lesser circle, which never had any imposts, it is somewhat more than eight feet from the inside of the outward one, and consists of 40 lesser stones; forming with the outward circles, as it were, a circular portico, a most beautiful work, and of a pretty effect; they are flat parallelograms, as those of the outward circle; and their general and designed proportion is two cubits, or two and a half, as suitable stones were found. They are a cubit thick, and four and one half high, which is more than seven feet; this was their stated proportion, being every way the half of the outer uprights. These stones are of a harder composition than the rest, the better to resist violence, as they are lesser; and they have sufficient fastenings in the ground. There are but 19 of the 40 left; but 10 of them are standing *in situ*, five in one place contiguous, three in another, two in another.

The walk between these two circles, which is 300 feet in circumference, is very noble and delightful.

* If to bring them to this place was so great a difficulty, another no less ponderous would arise, to account how they were carried off, and whether, as there are no buildings near, nor perhaps any where, erected out of such materials. No force less than that of an earthquake seems adequate to the effect of throwing down such vast masses of stone set upright, and connected together by the tenons of the incumbent imposts. It would have been more finished, and been vastly stronger, had the imposts joined together, so as to have completed one vast circle of stone in the air. Something of this kind, and which for its size produces a much more agreeable effect than *Stone-henge*, is exhibited by went Cayles in his *Gaulph Antiquities*, and well deserves to be compared with the plan of *Stone henge*.

The *Adytum*, or cell, into which we may suppose none but the upper order of druids were to enter, is composed of certain compages of stones, which our author calls *Trilithons*, because made each of two upright stones, with an impost at top, and there are manifestly five of these remaining; three of which are intire, two are ruined in some measure; but the stones remain *in situ*. It is a magnificent niche, 27 cubits long, and as much broad, measuring in the widest place. The stones that compose it are really stupendous; their height, breadth, and thicknes, are enormous; and to see so many of them placed together, in a nice and critical figure, with exactnes; to consider, as it were, not a pillar of one stone, but a whole wall, a side, an end of a temple, of one stone; to view them curiously; creates such a motion in the mind, as words cannot express. One very remarkable particular in the constitution of this *adytum* has escaped all observers before our author, which is this: As this part is composed of trilithons set two and two on each side, and one right before, they rise in height and beauty of the stones, from the lower end of the *adytum* to the upper end; that is, the two hithermost trilithons corresponding, or those next the grand entrance, on the right-hand, and on the left, are exceeded in height by the two next in order; and those are exceeded by that behind the altar, in the upper end of this choir; and their heights respectively are 13, 14, and 15 cubits.

The imposts of these are all of the same height, and ten cubits may be supposed their medium measure in length. The artifice of the tenons and mortices of these trilithons, and their imposts, what conformity they bear to that of the outer circle, is exceedingly pretty, every thing being done very geometrically, and as would best answer every purpose, from plain and simple principles; and it is wonder-

wonderful, that, in the management of such prodigious stones as these are, fixed in the ground, and rammed-in like posts, there is not more variation in the height, distance, &c.

Of these greater stones of the *adytum*, as is observed before, there are none wanting, being all on the spot, ten uprights, and five imposts. The trilithon first on the left-hand is intire *in situ*, but vastly decayed, especially the impost, in which such deep holes are corroded, that, in some places, the daws make their nests in them. The next trilithon on the left is intire, composed of three most beautiful stones. The impost, happening to be of a very durable *English* marble, has not been much impaired by the weather. Our author took a walk on the top of it; but thought it a frightful situation. The trilithon of the upper end was an extraordinary beauty; but, probably, through the indiscretion of somebody digging between them and the altar, the noble impost is dislodged from its airy seat, and fallen upon the altar, where its huge bulk lies unfractured. The two uprights that supported it, are the most delicate stones of the whole work. They were, our author thinks, above 30 feet long, and well chiselled, finely tapered, and proportioned in their dimensions. That southward is broken in two, lying upon the altar: the other still stands intire; but leans upon one of the stones of the inward oval; the root-end, or un-hewn part of both, is raised somewhat above ground. The trilithon towards the west is intire, except that some of the end of the impost is fallen clean off, and all the upper edge is very much diminished by time. The last trilithon, on the right-hand of the entrance into the *adytum*, has suffered much. The outer upright, being the jamb of the entrance, is still standing; the other upright and impost are both fallen forwards into the *adytum*, and broken each into three pieces,

pieces, as supposed, from digging near it. That which is standing has a cavity in it, in which two or three persons may sit warm from the weather.

Stone-henge is composed of two circles, and two ovals, respectively concentric. The stones that form these ovals rise in height, as nearer the upper end of the *adytum*; and their mediate measure is four cubits and four palms. They are of a much harder kind than the larger stones in the lesser circle; the founders no doubt intending, that their lesser bulk should be compensated by solidity. Of these there are only six remaining upright: the stumps of two are left on the south-side by the altar; one lies behind the altar, dug up, or thrown down, by the fall of the upright there. One or two were probably thrown down by the fall of the upright of the first trilithon on the right-hand; a stump of another remains by the upright there still standing.

The whole number of stones may be thus computed: the great oval consists of ten uprights; the inner, with the altar, of 20; the great circle, of 30; the inner, of 40, which are 100 upright stones; five imposts of the great oval; 30 of the great circle; the two stones on the bank of the area; the stone lying within the entrance of the area, and that standing without: there seems to be another lying on the ground, by the *vallum* of the court, directly opposite to the entrance of the avenue; all added together make just 140 stones, the number of which *Stone-henge*, a whole temple, is composed. Behold the solution of the mighty problem! the magical spell, which has so long perplexed the vulgar, is broken! They think it an ominous thing to count the true number of the stones, and whoever does so, shall certainly die after it *

* The vulgar difficulty is to count the number of stones actually on the spot.

As to the altar, it is laid, towards the upper end of the *adytum*, at present flat on the ground, and squeezed into it, as it were, by the weight of the ruins upon it. It is a kind of blue coar'e marble, such as comes from *Derbyshire*, and laid upon tombs in our churches and church-yards. Our author believes its breadth is two cubits three palms; and that its first intended length was ten cubits, equal to the breadth of the trilithon, before which it lies. But it is very difficult to come at its true length. It is 20 inches thick, a just cubit, and has been squared. It lies between the two centres, that of the compasses, and that of the string; leaving a convenient space quite round it, no doubt as much as was necessary for this ministrations.

The heads of oxen, deer, and other beasts, have been found upon digging in and about *Stone-henge*, undoubted reliques of sacrifices, together with wood-ashes. Mr. *Camden* says, mens bones have been found hereabouts; he means in the adjacent barrows; and such our author saw thrown out by rabbits, which have been brought hither of late years; and, by their burrowing, threaten these noble ruins, as the greedy plough more and more invades the neighbouring plain.

But eternally, as he observes, is to be lamented the loss of that tablet of tin, which was found at this place in the time of *Henry VII*. inscribed with many letters; but in so strange a character, that neither sir *Thomas Elliot*, a learned antiquary, nor Mr. *Lilly*, first high master of *St. Paul's* school, could make any thing out of it; and which, no doubt, was a memorial of the founders, written by the *Druuids*; and, had it been preserved till now, would have been an invaluable curiosity.

In the year 1635, as they were plowing by the barrows about *Normanton-ditch*, they found so large a quantity

quantity of excellent pewter, as, at a low price, they sold for five pounds. There are several of these ditches, being very narrow, which run across the downs, which perhaps are boundaries of hundreds, parishes, &c. These pewter plates might, very possibly, have been tablets, with inscriptions; but, falling into such rude hands, they could no more discern the writing, than interpret it.

Mr. Webb tells us, the duke of Buckingham dug about *Stone-henge*, perhaps much to the prejudice of the work; as did Mr. Webb.

Mr. Hayward, late owner of *Stone-henge*, likewise dug about it, and found heads of oxen, and other beasts bones, and nothing else.

Dr. Stukely himself, in 1723, dug on the inside of the altar, about the middle, four feet along the edge of the stone, six feet forward towards the middle of the *adytum*: at a foot deep he came to the solid chalk, mixed with flints, which had never been stirred. The altar was exactly a cubit thick, i. e. 20 inches four-fifths, but broken in two or three pieces by the ponderous masses of the imposts, and one upright stone of that trilithon, which stood at the upper end of the *adytum*, being fallen upon it. Hence appears the commodiousness of the foundation for this large work! They dug holes in the solid chalk, which would of itself keep up the stones as firm as if a wall was built round them; and no doubt but they rammed up the interstices with flints. But he says, he had too much regard to the work, to dig any where near the stones. He took up an ox's tooth above-ground, without the *adytum*, on the right-hand of the lowermost trilithon northward.

About six miles north-west of this place, at a small village called *Shrawton*, near *Longleat*, the noble seat of lord *Weymouth*, is a curious piece of sculpture in alabaster, which had been dug in one of

the adjacent barrows on *Salisbury Plain*. It is of an oval form, about two feet in length, and one in the broadest part of the diameter. In the middle is represented a woman, habited as a queen, with her globe, scepter, crown, and mantle of state. In a compartment over her head are three figures, evidently representing the Three Persons of the Holy Trinity. Round the sides are angels intermixed with some of the apostles. The exquisite workmanship of the figure of the woman (who seems intended for the *Virgin Mary*), the strong as well as tender expression in her features, and the elegance of her drapery, shew it to be the work of a very skilful hand.

We shall now proceed to give some account of the famous barrows on these *Downs*; and we shall borrow from the same learned author the following curious particulars relating to them :

The tops of all the hills, or rather easy elevations, round *Stone-henge*, are in a manner covered with these barrows, which make an agreeable appearance, adorning the bare *Downs* with their figures. This ring of barrows, however, reaches no farther than till you lose sight of the temple, as we now make no doubt to call *Stone-henge*, or thereabouts. Many, from the great number of these sepulchral *tumuli* here, injudiciously conclude, that there have been great battles upon the plain, and that the slain are buried there; but they are really no other than family burying-places set near this temple, for the same reason as we bury in church yards, and consecrated grounds.

We may readily count 50 at a time in sight from the place, especially in the evening, when the sloping rays of the sun shine on the ground beyond them. They are most of them of a very elegant bell-like form, and done with great nicety; in general

general they are always upon elevated ground, and in sight of the temple, as we have said; for they all regard it, and are assuredly the single sepulchres of kings and great personages, buried, during a considerable space of time, and in peace. There are many groups of them together, as if family burying-places, and the variety in them seems to indicate some pre-eminence in the persons interred. Most of them have little ditches around; in many is a circular ditch, 60 cubits in diameter, with a very small *tumulus* in the centre. Sixty, or even 100 cubits, is a very common diameter in the large barrows. Often they are set in rows, and equidistant, so as to produce a regular and pretty appearance, and with some particular regard to the parts of the temple, the avenues, or the *Cursus*. Upon every range of hills, quite round *Stone-henge*, are successive groups of barrows for some miles; and even that named *King-barrow*, by lord *Pembroke's* park wall at *Wilton*, is set within view of *Stone-henge*.

In 1727, the late lord *Pembroke* opened a barrow, in order to find the position of the body observed in those early days. He pitched upon one of the double barrows, where two are inclosed in one ditch. He made a section from the top to the bottom; an entire segment from centre to circumference. The composition was good earth quite through, except a coat of chalk of about two feet thick, covering it quite over, under the turf. Hence it appears, that the method of making the barrows was, to dig up the turf for a great space round, till the barrow was brought to its intended bulk. Then, with the chalk dug out of the environing ditch, they powdered it all over. And the notion of sanctity annexed to them forbade people trampling on them till perfectly settled and turfed over; whence the neatness

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of their form to this day. At the top, or centre, of this barrow, not above three feet under the surface, my lord found the skeleton of the interred, perfect, of a reasonable size, the head lying northward towards *Stone-henge*.

The year following, by my lord's order, Dr. Stukeley began upon another double barrow. He began upon the lesser, and made a large cut on the top from east to west. After the turf, he came to the layer of chalk, as before, and then fine garden mould; about three feet below the surface, a layer of flints, humouring the convexity of the barrow, which are gathered from the surface of the downs in some places, especially where it has been plowed. This, being about a foot thick, rested on a layer of soft mould, another foot; in which was inclosed an urn full of bones. The urn was of unbaked clay, of a dark reddish colour, and crumbled into pieces. It had been rudely wrought with small mouldings round the verge, and other circular channels on the outside, with several indentions between, made with a pointed tool. The bones had been burnt, and crowded all together in a little heap, not so much as a hat-crown would contain; the collar-bone, and one side of the under-jaw, remaining very intire. It appeared to have been a girl of about 14 years old, by their bulk, and the great quantity of female ornaments mixed with the bones; as great numbers of glas beads of all sorts, and of divers colours, most yellow, one black; many single, many in long pieces, notched between, so as to resemble a string of beads, and these were generally of a blue colour. There were many of amber, of all shapes and sizes, flat squares, long squares, round, oblong, little, and great; likewise many of earth, of different shapes, magnitude, and colour; some little and white, many large and flattish, like a button, others like a pully;

but all had holes to run a string through, either through their diameter or sides; many of the button-fort seemed to have been covered with metal, there being a rim worked in them, wherein to turn the edge of the covering. One of these was covered with a thin film of pure gold. These were the young lady's ornaments, and had all undergone fire; so that what would easily consume fell to pieces as soon as handled; much of the amber burnt half through. This person was an heroine; for we found the head of her javelin in brass. At bottom are two holes for the pin that fastened it to the staff; besides, there was a sharp bodkin, round at one end, square at the other, where it went into the handle. Our author preserved whatever was permanent of these trinkets; but recomposed the ashes of the illustrious defunct, and covered them with earth, leaving visible marks at top of the barrow having been opened (to dissuade any other from again disturbing them); and this was his practice in all the rest.

He then opened the next barrow to it, inclosed in the same ditch, which he supposed the husband or father of this lady. At 14 inches deep, the mould being mixed with chalk, he came to the intire skeleton of a man, the skull and all the bones exceedingly rotten, and perished, through length of time; though this was a barrow of the latest sort, as he conjectured. The body lay north and south, the head to the noith, as did that lord *Pembroke* opened.

Next he went westward to a group of barrows whence *Stone-henge* bears east-north-east. Here is a large barrow ditched about, but of an antient make. On that side next *Stone-henge* are ten lesser, small, and as it were, crowded together. South of the great one is another barrow, larger than those of the group but not equalling the first; it should seem, that man and his wife were buried in the two largest.

and that the rest were of their children or dependents. One of the small ones, 20 cubits in diameter, he cut through, with a pit nine feet in diameter, to the surface of the natural chalk, in the centre of the barrow, where was a little hole cut. A child's body, as it seems, had been burnt here, and covered up in that hole; but, through length of time, consumed. From three feet deep he found much wood-ashes, soft, and black as ink, some little bits of an urn, and black and red earth, very rotten; some small lumps of earth, red as vermillion; some flints burnt through; towards the bottom, a great quantity of ashes, and burnt bones. From this place he counted 128 barrows in sight.

Going from hence more southerly, is a circular dish-like cavity, 60 cubits in diameter, dug in the chalk, like a barrow reversed. It is near a great barrow, the least of the south-western group. This cavity is seven feet deep in the middle, extremely well turned; and out of it, no doubt, the adjacent barrow is dug. The use of it seems to have been a place for sacrificing and feasting in memory of the dead, as was the ancient custom. It is all over-grown with that pretty shrub *Erica vulgaris*, then in flower, and smelling like honey. He made a large cross section in its centre upon the cardinal points, and found nothing but a bit of red earthen pot.

He then dug up one of those he calls *Druids* barrows, a small *Tumulus*, inclosed in a large circular ditch. *Stone-henge* bears hence north-east. He made a cross section ten feet each way, three feet broad over its centre upon the cardinal points; at length he found a squarish hole cut in the solid chalk in the centre of the *Tumulus*; it was three feet and a half, i.e. two cubits long, and near two feet broad, i.e. one cubit, pointing to *Stone-henge* directly. It was a cubit and a half deep from the surface. This was the

Domus exilis Plutonia, covered with artificial earth, not above a foot thick from the surface. In this little grave he found all the burnt bones of a man, but no signs of an urn. The bank of the circular ditch is on the outside, and is twelve cubits broad; the ditch is six cubits broad (the *Druïds* staff); the area is 70 cubits in diameter. The whole 100.

He opened another of these of like dimensions, next to that lord *Pembroke* first opened, south of *Stone-henge*; and found a burnt body in an hole in the chalk, as before.

In some other barrows he opened, were found large burnt bones of horses and dogs, together with human; also of other animals, as seem'd of fowl, hares, boars, deer, goats, or the like; and, in a great and very flat old-fashioned barrow, west from *Stone-henge*, among such matters, he found bits of red and blue marble, chippings of the stones of the temple; so that probably the interred was one of the builders. *Homer* tells us of *Achilles* slaying horses and dogs at the funeral of his friend *Patroclus*.

Lord *Pembroke* told the doctor of a bras sword dug up in a barrow here; which was sent to *Oxford*. In that very old barrow near *Little Ambresbury*, was found a very large bras weapon, of 20 pound weight, like a pole-ax, said to be given to colonel *Wyndham*. In the great long barrow, farthest north from *Stone-henge*, which our author supposes to be *Archdrui'a's*, was found one of those bras instrument called *Celts*, 13 inches long, which, he thinks, belonged to the *Druïds*, wherewith they cut off the mistletoe. Mr. *Stallard* of *Ambresbury* gave it to lord *Burlington*. It was reposit'd in sir *Hans Sloane's* cabinet, and most probably remov'd, with the other rarities of that famous collector, to the British Museum. "They dug a cell in a barrow east of *Ambresbury*, where they saw all the bones of an horse. We have more

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find evidently, adds the doctor, these ancient nations had the custom of burning their dead bodies.

Since the time mentioned by the doctor, there have been pieces of spears, and other instruments of war, dug up in some of the *Tumuli* near *Ambresbury*; which are in the possession of his grace the duke of *Queenberry*, who has already planted four of the largest *Tumuli* with firs; and, since he bought the manor of *Stone-henge*, has been preparing to embellish all the others within the manor with evergreen trees, which will not only beautify the country, but also become land-marks for travellers, who are often at a loss to find their way over these large plains, if they are not accustomed to the roads. His grace has also made ridings over the downs from *Ambresbury*, round by *Stone-henge*, which are planted with clumps of evergreen trees, and are a great beauty to those open downs.

Salisbury plains have little of the delightful to boast of, since nothing appears but here and there a little rising ground; poor verdure, and not a tree or drop of water, or a gentleman's house, or even a cottage, to be seen, in the vast extent the eye here stretches over. However, some very extensive flocks of sheep pick up pasture on these extensive plains, which, in some measure, help to amuse the weary traveller in his journey over this solitary waste.

Time, however, may alter the face of this extensive track, since a great part of these Downs comes, by a new method of husbandry, not only to be made arable, but to bear plentiful crops of wheat, though never known to our ancestors to be capable of any such thing; nay, they would probably have laughed at any one, that had gone about to plow up the wild downs and hills, which they thought only fit for sheep-walks: but experience has made the present more skilful in husbandry; for by only folding

the sheep upon those lands, after they are turned up with the plough (which generally goes within three or four inches of the solid rock of chalk), they become abundantly fruitful, and bear very good wheat, as well as rye and barley. This husbandry was introduced at a time when corn bore a very high price, the seasons having proved so wet and cold for two or three years, as to greatly damage the corn in the low grounds; and where the downs had been plowed and sown with corn, it succeeded so well as to encourage others to break up more of them: but as the land is very shallow, being in few places more than five inches deep, above the chalk or flints; so in two or three years it was exhausted, and scarce produced double the quantity of grain which was sown upon it, therefore was not worth cultivating; and by having destroyed the sward of grass which was upon it before plowing, the land is now worth nothing; so that what was at first supposed to be a great improvement, proved the total ruin of those estates. Yet even this should not discourage a future attempt, since a different management may have happier effects.

This plain open country contains in length from *Winchester* to *Salisbury* 25 miles, from thence to *Dorchester* 38 miles, thence to *Weymouth* 8 miles; so that they lie 52 miles in length; and in breadth they reach also in some places from 35 to 40 miles. Those, who would make any practicable guess at the number of sheep which usually feed on the downs, may take it from a calculation made, as I was told, at *Dorchester*, that there were 600,000 sheep fed within the circumference of six miles round that town *.

* Some years ago this might have been true; but from the increase of arable cultivation, and enclosures on the downs, the flocks must now be greatly diminished.

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As we passed this open plain country, we saw the ruins of a great many old *Roman* and *British* camps, and other remains of the antient inhabitants of this kingdom, which are indeed very agreeable to a traveller that has read the history of the country.

Old Sarum, which is the next place we come to, is as remarkable as any of these; where is a double intrenchment, with a ditch, to either of them. It is said, it was a *Roman* station, and the ancient *Sorbiculum*. It was deserted in king *Henry III's* time, for want of water, when the inhabitants founded *New Sarum*. The old city is of an orbicular form, erected on one of the most elegant designs imaginable. It was, first, a fortres of the ancient *Britons*. The prospect of this place is at present very august, and must have afforded a most noble sight, when in perfection. In the angle to the north-west stood the cathedral and episcopal palace. The city fills up the summit of an high and steep hill, near the bottom of which runs the river *Avon*. Here synods, and *British* parliaments, have formerly been held; and hither the states of the kingdom were summoned to swear fealty to *William I*. In this city was the palace of the *British* and *Saxon* kings, and before them of the *Roman* emperors. Near it is one farin-house; and that is all which is left of this ancient city; yet this is called the borough of *Old Sarum*, and sends two members to parliament, who are chosen by the Proprietors of certain lands. *Whom* those members can justly say *they represent*, would however be hard for them to answer.

Salisbury is a large, well-built, and pleasant city; the streets are all built at right angles: they are, generally, wide and spacious; and a clear stream of water, in a brick canal, runs through each. The market-place is large, and exceedingly well furnished.

The city lies at the confluence of two rivers, the *Avon* and the *Willy*, each of them singly a considerable river, but very large when joined together; and yet much larger, when they receive the *Nadder*, a third river, which joins them near *Clarendon* park, about three miles below the city; when, with a deep channel, and a current less rapid, they run down to *Christ-Church*, where they empty themselves into the sea. From that town upwards, to within two miles of *Salisbury*, they are made navigable; but the strength of the stream would not permit to make them so up to the city.

Salisbury, and all the county of *Wilts*, are full of a great variety of manufactures; and those too of the most considerable in *England*; as the cloathing trade, and that of flannels, druggets, and also several other sorts of manufactures; of which in their place.

Salisbury has, in particular, two remarkable manufactures that flourish in it, which employ the poor all around; namely, fine flannels, and long cloths for the *Turky* trade, called *Salisbury Whites*.

The close, adjacent to the cathedral, in which live the canons and prebendaries, is so large and well-built, that it looks like a fine city of itself.

The cathedral church was begun by bishop *Poore*, who also built *Harnham* bridge; the work was continued by *Robert Bingham*, and *William of York*, and finished by *Giles de Bridport*, bishop of this see; all in the space of 42 years. It is built in the figure of a cross. Above the roof, which is 116 feet to the top, rises the tower and spire, the finest and highest in *England*; being, from the ground to the top of the weathercock, 135 yards; and yet the wall so exceedingly thin, that, at the upper part of the spire, upon a view made by the late sir *Christopher Wren*, the wall was found to be less than five inches thick;

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upon which a consultation was held, whether the spire, or at least the upper part of it, should be taken down, it being supposed to have received some damage by the great storm in the year 1703; but it was resolved in the negative; and sir Christopher ordered it to be strengthened with bands of iron plates, which have effectually secured it; and I have heard some of the best architects say, it is stronger now, than when it was first built.

The tower has 16 lights, four on each side. Its ornaments are rich, and yet judiciously adapted to the whole body of the building. But the beauty of it is hurt by a thing very easily to be remedied; which is this: the glass in the several windows, being very old, has contracted such a rust*, that it is scarcely to be distinguished from the stone-walls; consequently, it appears as if there were no lights at all in the tower, but only recesses in the stone; whereas, were the windows glazed with squares, and kept clean (which might be done), they would be plainly visible at a distance; and not only so, but from all the adjacent hills you would see the light quite through the tower each way; which would have a very fine effect.

They tell us here long stories of the great art used in laying the first foundation of this church, the ground being marshy and wet, occasioned by the channels of the rivers; that it was laid upon piles, according to some; and upon wool-packs, according to others; but this is not to be believed by those who know, that the whole country is one rock of chalk, even from the top of the highest hills, to the bottom of the deepest rivers. And the foundation:

* Or, rather, are so corroded, which is the case of most of the old pointed glass-windows in England; perhaps owing to some salts in the glass, which the air has acted upon.

of woolpacks is, no doubt, allegorical, and has respect to the woollen trade.

There are no vaults in the church, nor cellars in the whole city, by reason of springs; very frequently the water rises up in the graves that are dug in the church, and is sometimes two feet high in the chapter-house. Whether this is owing to springs, or to penning up the river *Avon*, and the currents in the streets, is uncertain; but the foundation of the church must be greatly impaired, and, in time, ruined by it. And, if it proceeds from the oozing of water from the several adjacent streams, I should imagine, that digging a deep trench round the church-yard, and taking off so much of the surface as to make a declivity each way to the trench, would, at least, keep the church dry, especially if the water drained into it were constantly thrown out by an engine. And this would be an expence very well bestowed, did it contribute, in any degree, to preserve the building.

In the outside of the church there is a beautiful simplicity and elegance; but the west-end, though crowded with ornamental work, is not well designed; nor does the church deserve to be so much admired within as without; though its inside is certainly hurt by the paltry old painting in and over the choir, and the white-washing lately done, wherein they, very idly, have every where drawn black lines, to imitate joints of stone.

It is the opinion of many, that this building is light and slender to a fault; as, on the contrary, the new part of the cathedral of *Winchester* is too heavy and crowded: for though a building be strong, yet if it has not the appearance of strength, it is as great a defect in its beauty as being over clumsy.

To give an instance of this; let any one view the arcade round *Gevent-garden*, and the rustic arcade of

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the front of the *Royal Exchange*, and he will be convinced, that piers or pillars may be too slender, as well as too thick. But one would imagine, that the builder of *Salisbury* cathedral had been making experiments to see what he could do, rather than what he ought to have done; for, it is plain, his reason for building so flight could not proceed from any apprehension of the foundation failing, because, if so, he would not have thought of carrying up a steeple such a vast height.

The north-west of the four pillars, which support the steeple, having bent towards the middle, was the reason, I suppose, of erecting the two lower arches, intersecting the great aisle of the cross from north to south, to preserve the perpendicular level of that, and the other three pillars, as much as possible. But this is done in the *Gothic* manner, with so much beauty, that, were there no need of them, one would scarcely wish them away. How they let this building into the main pillars, and how they ventured to dig for a foundation, is worth the examination of architects.

The steeple, besides these arches, is likewise propt by stone-supports, carried every way diagonally cross the open arcades, above the arches of the side-aisles, and also cross the windows of the nave; and seem to have been done about 200 years ago.

The ordinary boast of this building is contained in the following verses:

*As many days as in one year there be,
So many windows in one church we see :
As many marble pillars there appear,
As there are hours throughout the fleeting year :
As many gates, as moons one year do view :
Strange tale to tell, yet not more strange than true !*

If this be really so, and we are to suppose that the designer had it in view when he formed his plan, it was a consideration so trifling and childish, that it calls for censure rather than approbation. Convenience for the intended purpose, strength, and then beauty, are the three things to be considered in all buildings; and happy is his genius, who succeeds in them all. Would any person therefore (except a fantastical monk) cramp and hurt his plan, which unavoidably must be the case, for such a ridiculous end as this?—Surely no; we ought rather to impute this discovery to some cunning observer, who has found out what the architect never thought of.

The organ in the church is fixed over the entrance of the choir: it is very large, being 20 feet broad, an 40 feet high, to the top of its ornaments. It has 50 stops, which are 18 more than what are in the organ of *St. Paul's*: but the sweetness of the tone of *St. Paul's* organ is far beyond that of *Salisbury*; though the last is a very good instrument.

The church has been lately repaired by the contributions of the bishop and prebendaries, set on foot by bishop *Sherlock*.

Some of the windows of the church, which escaped the fury of the zealots in 1641, are well painted.

There are some very fine monuments in this church; particularly in that they call the *Virgin Mary's Chapel*, behind the altar, is a noble monument for a late duke and dutchess of *Somerset*, with their portraits at full length. The late ingenious and excellent dutchess of *Somerset*, of the *Percy* family, also her daughter, the marchioness of *Caermarthen*, and a second son of her grace, both by duke *Charles Seymour*, are likewise interred here; as he himself is.

The figure of one *Bennet* is represented here, who, endeavouring to imitate our Saviour in fasting forty

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forty days and forty nights, fell a victim to his folly at the end of 17 days*.

There are many ancient monuments in this church; to wit, bishop *Poore's*, who first began the building of it; bishop *Bingham's*; *William of York's*; a brafs plate in the wall for dean *Gourdon a Scot*; bishop *Audley's* tomb; bishop *Salcot's*; bishop *Bridport's*; Dr. *Sydenham's*; a fair well-wrought monument of free-stone for sir *Thomas Gorges* and his lady, adorned with figures of the regular solids. A tomb for the lord *Hungerford*, who was hanged and degraded, and had a toad put into his coat of arms; an iron twisted wire hangs up near his tomb, signifying an halter. The like for the lord *Stourton*, whose tomb is also here on the other side of the chapel of our Lady; a monument of that family, with fix holes on one side, and fix on the other, alluding, as his coat of arms, to fix wells, three within his park, and three without; the lord *Cheney's* tomb; bishop *Beauchamp's*; *William Longspeare*, earl of *Salisbury*, a natural son of *Henry II.* by *Kosamond Clifford*, and a stately rich monument of the late earl of *Hertford*; Dr. *Wilton's*, with a rebus on it, *Will and Tun*; bishop *Capon's*; a gaudy monument for sir *Richard Mompesson* and his lady; bishop *Jewel*, content with a grave stone; bishop *Uval*; bishop *Chest*. Here is likewise a monument to the beneficent Dr. *Seth Ward*, bishop of this see, who founded, amongst other benefactions (which I shall take notice of in *Hertfordshire*), an handsome college for the widows of ten ministers, allowing to each 15*l.* a year; and which has been since obliged to Dr. *Gilbert*, bishop of this see, and afterwards archbishop of *York*.

* This is probably a fiction (and a similar tale is told at *Winchester*), owing to a fashion, which for some time prevailed, of representing the person on the upper part of the monument as dressed and alive, and at the bottom as dead, and almost reduced to a skeleton.

The cloister is 160 feet square, the inner cloister 30 feet wide, with 10 arches on each side, the top vaulted, and covered with lead. Over the east walk of the cloister is a spacious library; but not over-well stocked with books. The chapter-house is octagon, and of 50 feet in diameter; the roof bearing all upon one small marble pillar in the centre, which seems so feeble, that it is hardly to be imagined it can be a sufficient support to it. It hath 52 stalls in it for the 52 prebendaries of this church.

The corporation of *Sarum* purchased a fine original picture of queen *Aune*, drawn by the celebrated *Dab*, and put it up in the council-chamber of the city. This picture formerly belonged to the society of gentlemen (all members of parliament) known by the name of *The October Club*, and was set up in the great room belonging to the *Bell* tavern in *Westminster*; which then was the sign of the house where they used to meet, till the death of that queen.

Here are three other churches, dedicated to *St. Martin*, *St. Thomas*, and *St. Edmund*; and one other, called *Fibertown*, from its situation.

The charter of incorporation was granted to the city by king *Henry III.* who made it a county of itself; and it sends two members to parliament.

The corporation of *New Sarum* consists of a mayor, recorder, 24 aldermen, and 30 common-council. There are two free-schools; the one called the town free school, under the direction of the mayor and corporation; the other in the close, under the direction of the dean and chapter. There is also a very good antique building, called the council-house, in the lower part of which the assizes are held; and the upper part is the council-chamber of the corporation.

In 1737, an act passed for the better repairing and paving the highways, streets, and watercourses, within

within this city; and for enlightening the streets, lanes, and passages; and better regulating the nightly watch.

From *Salisbury*, I went to see the ancient house and seat of *Clarendon*, which gives title to the earl of that name. This place should be called *Clarendon*, from the memorable *Roman* camp, half a mile off the park, near the *Roman* road, made or repaired by *Constantius Chlorus*, father of *Constantine*. It is a beautiful fortification, upon a dry chalky hill. Within is a circular ditch, supposed to be a less sort of camp for the summer. The park is a sweet and beautiful spot. Here king *John* built a palace, where several parliaments have been held. Part of the fabric is still left, though they have for many years been pulling it down. The materials are chiefly flint; and it was built upon the side of an hill, but no-way fortified, though it took up much ground. This palace is called the *Manor*; and from it lies a subterraneous passage to the *Queen's Manor*. Between the camp and the park was a *Roman* road, from *Sorbiudunum*, or *Old Sarum*, to *Winchester*.

But this being a large county, and full of memorable branches of antiquity and modern curiosity, I made several little excursions from this beautiful spot, to view the northern parts of the county.

No less than four rivers meet all together, at or near the city of *Salisbury*, the waters of three of which run through the streets of the city; viz. the *Nadder*, the *Willy*, and the *Avon*. 1. The *Nadder* rises near the end of the *Blow-mill Course*, and passes by *Chitmark*, a pleasant village, noted for its quarries of very good white stone, which rises in many dimensions; insomuch that there is now a single stone lying over the mouth of the quarry like an architrave, full 60 feet long, 12 in thickness, and perfectly without flaw. 2. The *Willy* rises about *Warminster*;

minster; runs by *Tarnbury*, a vast Roman camp (where some distinguish *Vespasian's* name; a great semicircular work at the entrance; over-against which, on the other side the *Willy*, is another camp); then running by *Orchestra*, remarkable for a kind of very long grafts, with which they fatten hogs, it gives name to *Wilton*, and forms the canal before the front of *Wilton* house; and then joining the *Nadder* runs through the gardens at the end of the avenue. 3. The *Avon* rises from under a great ridge of the hills, which divide *Wiltshire* into the north and south, adorned with the *Wansdike*. It passes southward through a great number of villages to *Ambresbury*.

On the right, about two miles from *Salisbury*, and at about four miles farther on the same road, you see a handsome building surrounded by trees, called *Stanbing*; and about seven miles from *Salisbury*, the road parts and goes on the right hand to *Redbridge*, and so to *Southbow*; but, continuing on the road to the left about one mile farther, is a little village, called *White Parish*; just before you come to which, on the left hand, you have a view of a pretty house, called *Brickworth*.

What is most worth a man of curiosity's seeing in this county, is *Wilton* house. It is situated in a pleasant vale, having *Wilton* on one side (a little town which returns two members to parliament), and a spacious park on the other.

The building was begun in the reign of *Henry VIII.* The great quadrangle was finished in the time of *Edward VI.* and the porch was designed by *Hans Holbein*. The hall-side, being burnt down some years ago, was rebuilt by the late *Thomas earl of Pembroke*, then lord high-admiral of *England*, in a very noble and sumptuous manner. The stair-case, which is very large, was ordered, by the late earl, to be painted *In Cibaro obscuro*, by *Van Risquet*.

The

The other parts, which were rebuilt by the first Philip earl of *Pembroke*, were all designed by the famous *Inigo Jones*, and finished by him in the year 1640.

The canal before the house lies parallel with the road, and receives into it the whole river *Willy*, or at least is able to do so; it may indeed be said, that the river is made into a canal. When we come into the court-yards before the house, there are several pieces of antiquity; as particularly a noble column of porphyry, with a marble statue of *Venus* on the top of it; which, as they told me, is 32 feet high, and of excellent workmanship, and that it came last from *Candia*, but formerly from *Alexandria*.

As the earl of *Pembroke* above mentioned was a nobleman of great learning, and a master in antiquity, he took delight in collecting such valuable pieces of painting and sculpture, as made *Wilton* house a perfect *Museum*, or receptacle of rarities; and we meet with several things there, which are to be found no-where else in the world. I shall particularize but a few; for a volume might be employed in a full description of them; and indeed a volume is actually written on the subject.

The piece of our Saviour's washing his disciples feet, which they shew you in one of the first rooms you go into, is admirable. At the foot of the great stair-case is a *Bacchus*, as large as the life, done in fine *Peloponnesian* marble; carrying a young *Bacchus* on his arm, the young one eating grapes, and shewing by his countenance he is pleased with the taste of them. One ought to stop every two steps of this stair-case, as we go up, to contemplate the vast variety of pictures that cover the walls, and of some of the best masters in *Europe*; and yet this is but an introduction to what is beyond them.

The

The great geometrical stair-case is deservedly admired; and was the first of this kind in *England*.

It is universally acknowledged, that the apartment called the salon, and the great dining-room, are the noblest pieces of architecture that have been hitherto produced: the first is a cube of 30 feet; the other is a double cube of 60 by 30.

When you are entered these grand apartments, such variety strikes upon you every way, that you scarce know to which hand to turn yourself first. On one side you see several rooms, filled with paintings, all so curious and various, that it is with reluctance you leave them; and, looking another way, you are called off by a vast collection of busts, and pieces of the greatest antiquity of the kind, both *Greek* and *Roman*. Among which are the entire collection of the cardinals *Mazarine* and *Richelieu*, and the greatest part of the earl of *Arundel's*, with others purchased at different times.

In one end of the grand room is the celebrated family-picture by *Vandyke*, 20 feet long, and 12 feet high, containing 13 figures, as big as the life; which rather appear as so many real persons, than the production of art.

The picture over the chimney is prince *Charles*, and his brothers the dukes of *York* and *Gloucester*. And over the doors, on each side of the capital picture, are two admirable portraits of king *Charles I.* and his queen. The other pictures in this room are of the *Pembroke* family, drawn at full length. All by *Vandyke*.

It was at this house, that sir *Philip Sydney* wrote his *Arcadia*: and in the bottom pannels of the wainscot of the salon, several incidents described in that romance are represented in miniature; but the painting is not well done.

After

After this fine range of beauties is seen, we are far from being at an end of our surprize; there are three or four rooms still upon the same floor, filled with wonder; nothing can be finer than the pictures in them.

In most of the apartments are marble chimney-pieces of the most exquisite workmanship, all carved in *Italy*; with many curious statues, basso-relievos, and pictures of the most famous masters. The *Loggia* in the bowling green (which has pillars beautifully rusticated, and is enriched with niches and statues), the grotto (the front of which is curiously carved without, as it is all marble within, and has black pillars of the *Ionic* order, with capitals of white marble, and four fine basso-relievos from *Florence*), the stables, and other offices, are all beauties in their kind, which would tire description.

The collections of head-pieces, coats of mail, and other armour, for both horse and men, are also a curiosity. They shew those of king *Henry VIII.* *Edward VI.* and of an earl of *Pembroke*, nick-named *Black-Jack*, which he wore when he besieged and took *Boulogne* in *France*, being the general who commanded in chief under the king (which, however, history shews is all a fable); they are very curious and embossed. Twelve other complete suits of armour, of extraordinary workmanship, are also there; the rest, being about a hundred, are only for common horsemen.

The garden front is justly esteemed one of the best pieces of the renowned *Inigo Jones*, and is 194 feet long.

The gardens are on the south of the house, and extend themselves beyond the river; a branch of which runs through one part of them. Over this river was erected, by the father of the present earl,

one

one of the most beautiful bridges in *England*; on which is an open colonnade of the *Ionic* order.

After you have passed this bridge, you ascend a fine sloping hill, the top of which is set off by a wild sort of plantation.

On the summit of this hill his lordship built a summer-room; and from hence you have a charming prospect of the city of *Sarum* and the north-side of its cathedral.

And still south of the gardens is the great park, which reaches beyond the vale: the view opens to the great *Down*, which is properly called, by way of distinction, *Salisbury-plain*, and leads from the city of *Salisbury* to *Shaftsbury*. Here also his lordship had an *hare-warren*; but the gentlemen complain that it mars their game; for that, as soon as they put an hare for their sport, if it be any where within two or three miles, away she runs for the warren, and there is an end of their pursuit. On the other hand, it makes all the countrymen turn poachers, and destroy the hares, by what means they can. The father of the present earl of *Pembroke*, who had a fine taste in architecture, made a further improvement, with regard to prospect, at this noble house, throwing down the walls of the garden, and making, instead of them, *haw-haw* walls, which afford a boundless view all around the country from every quarter.

If his lordship had proceeded with the design, which, I was told, he once had thoughts of prosecuting, that is, to erect a *Stone-henge* in miniature, as it was supposed to be in its perfection, according to Dr. *Stukeley*, on the hill in his garden, which, as I have observed, overlooks the whole country round, and on which is an equestrian statue of the emperor *Marcus Aurelius*, it would have added to the curiosities of *Wilton*, and been the admiration of foreign-

ers, as well as natives; for who, that sees that stupendous piece of antiquity in its ruins, would not have been desirous to behold it as it was in its supposed flourishing state?

Upon the highest eminence, which overlooks *Wilton*, and the fertile valley at the union of the *Nadder* and *Willy*, is the noted place called *Kingbarrow*. This is certainly *Celtic*, says Dr. *Stukeley*, and, with great probability, the very tomb of that *Carvilius*, who attacked *Cæsar's* sea-camp, in order to divert his renowned enemy from his close pursuit of *Cassibelan*. This prince is supposed to have kept his royal residence at *Carvilium*, now *Wilton*, near which place king *Edgar's* queen spent the latter part of her life, in a religious retirement; and for that purpose built an house there.

About three miles from *Salisbury* is *Longford*, the seat of the earl of *Radnor*. It is situated in a pleasant valley, the *Avon* running through his lordship's garden. The house, built in king *James* the First's time, is in a triangular form, with round towers at each corner; in which are the dining-room, library, and chapel. The rooms, though not large, are very pleasant, cheerful, and elegantly decorated in the modern taste; and, though richly furnished, yet the decorations of the rooms, and the furniture, do not appear over gaudy; a fault one sees in some other places. The gallery is very fine, and contains some admirable pictures of the greatest masters. At each end of this gallery hang two landscapes of *Claud Lorrain*; the one a rising, the other a setting sun; emblematical of the rise and fall of the *Roman* empire, which are esteemed two of the best pieces, now in the kingdom, of that great master.

The pictures, furniture, and fitting up of this gallery, it is said, cost 10,000*l.*

The

The triangular form of this house is so singular, that there is but one more of the same form in *England*; and which was built by the same person, at about six miles distance.

Near the earl of *Radnor's*, on the other side of the river, are the seats of *Thomas Duncomb*, esquire, of *Sir George Vandeput*, &c. which are so situated on the rising hills, as to command a prospect of the meadows, through which the river *Avon* serpentizes.

The road from *Wilton* to *Shaftesbury*, called *The Ten Miles Course*, is a fine ridge of downs, continued upon the southern bank of the river *Nadder*, with a sweet prospect to the right and left all the way over the downs, and the country on both sides. The grandfather of the present earl of *Pembroke* placed a numbered stone at every mile. Between the fifth and sixth mile is a pretty large camp, called *Chiselbury*, probably *Roman*, in the decline of the empire. At the end of this course are three or four *Celtic* barrows. In this hill is a quarry of stone, very full of sea-shells. Not far off, in the parish of *Tisbury*, near *Warder* castle, is a great intrenchment in a wood, which was probably a *British* town near the *Nadder*.

The downs and plains in this part of *England* being so open, and the surface so little subject to alteration, there are more remains of antiquity to be seen upon them, than in other places; and, as they tell us, no less than 53 ancient encampments, or fortifications, were in this one county; some of which are very visible, and are of different forms, and erected by different nations; as *British*, *Danish*, *Saxon*, and *Roman*; particularly at *Ebb-down*, *Burrwood*, *Oldburgh-hill*, *Cummerford*, *Roundway-down*, *St. Ann's Hill*, *Bratton Castle*, *Clay-hill*, *Stourton-park*, *Whitecole-hall*, *Battlebury*, *Scrathbury*, *Yanesbury*, *Frippsbury*, *Suthbury-hill*, *Ambresbury*, before de-

scribed, *Great Bedwyn, Easterley, Merton, Aubury, Barbury-castle, &c.* At *Aubury*, or *Aukbury*, in particular, on the east-side of the *Avon*, by *Great Dornford*, is a very large camp, covering the whole top of an hill. On the other side of the river, a little higher up, is *Vespasian's camp*, called *The Walls*. Near these are two other camps; which seem remains of *Vespasian's* victories, and intimate, that he subdued the country by inches.

North of these is *Martin's Hall-bill*, a vast stationary *Roman* camp. On two sides the precipice is dreadfully steep. The earl of *Winchelsea* has a brass *Alexander Severus* found here; on the reverse, *Jupiter Fulminans*. On the west side, at the top of the hill, without the camp, is a round pit, of good spring-water, always full to the brim in the driest summers (but never overflowing); which, at those seasons, is of the greatest service to the country round; and thousands of cattle are every day driven thither, from a considerable distance, to drink. I am informed, there is such another upon the top of *Chute-bill*, south-east from hence, very high, and no other water within some miles of it. The prospect from *Martin's Hall-bill* is exceedingly fine.

Farley, not far from *Clarendon Park*, was the birth-place of sir *Stephen Fox*, and where the town, sharing in his good fortune, shews several marks of his bounty; as particularly the building a new church from the foundation, and getting an act of parliament passed for making it parochial, it being but a chapel of ease before to an adjoining parish: Sir *Stephen* also built and endowed an alms-house here for six poor women, with a master, and a free-school. The master is to be a clergyman, and to officiate in the church; which, including the school, is a good maintenance.

I ought

I ought not to omit mentioning the tapestry manufacture at *Wilton*; which was carried on, under the patronage of the earl of *Pembroke*; and which is a great benefit to the town; as it will be, if encouraged as it deserves, to the whole kingdom. The *English* genius for improvement is well known; and they are already arrived to great perfection in making tapestry, and carpets of all sorts.

I am now to pursue my first design, and shall take the west part of *Wiltshire* in my return, where are several things to be still taken notice of.

From hence, in my way to the sea side, I came to *New Forest*, of which I have said something before, with relation to the great extent of ground which lies waste, and had formerly a vast quantity of large timber upon it.

This part of the country is a lasting monument of the tyranny and oppression of *William I.* who laid it open and waste for a forest, and for game*; for which purpose he unpeopled the country, pulled down the houses, and the churches, of several parishes and towns, and of abundance of villages, turning the poor people out of their habitations and possessions, for the sake of his deer. The same histories likewise record, that two of his own sons, and particularly his immediate successor *William Rufus*, lost their lives in this forest; *William Rufus* being shot with an arrow directed at a deer, which, glancing on a tree, changed its course, and, striking the king full on the breast, killed him. And another son, whilst in hot pursuit of the game, was caught up by the boughs of a tree,

* It is probable, that this waste was made more with the views of a politician than a sportsman, being a convenient and unnoticed rendezvous for an *English* army, in case intelligence came of any troubles in *Normandy*; or a landing-place for a *Norman* army, should the *English* prove troublesome to their conquerors.

and

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and hanged like *Absalom*. These they relate as judgments; and they still shew the tree on which the arrow glanced that flew *Rufus*. In king *Charles II's* time, the tree was ordered to be surrounded with a pale, great part of which is now fallen down; and whether the tree they shew us be really so old, or not, is to me a great question, the fact being above 600 years ago.

I cannot omit mentioning here a proposal made some years ago to the lord treasurer *Godolphin*, for re-peopling this forest; which I can be more particular in *, than any other man, because I had the honour to draw up the scheme, and argue it before that noble lord, and some others, who were principally concerned, at that time, in bringing over, or rather providing for when they were come over, the poor inhabitants of the *Palatinate*; a thing in itself commendable, but, as it was managed, made of no benefit to *England*, and miserable to those poor people.

Some persons being ordered, by the noble lord above mentioned, to consider of measures how those people should be provided for, without injury to the publick, the **NEW FOREST** in *Hampshire* was singled out to be the place for them.

Here it was proposed to draw a great square line, containing 4000 acres of land, marking out two large highways or roads through the centre, crossing both ways; so that there should be 1000 acres in each division, exclusive of the land contained in the said cross-roads.

Then to single out 20 men, and their families, who should be recommended as honest industrious people, expert in husbandry, or at least capable of being instructed in it. To each of these should be

* The writer of this part was the famous *Daniel de Foe*.

parcelled, but in equal distributions, 200 acres of this land; so that the whole 4000 acres should be distributed to the said 20 families; for which they should have no rent to pay, and be liable to no taxes, but such as would provide for their own sick or poor, repairing their own roads, &c. This exemption to continue for 20 years, and then to pay each 50*l.* a year to the crown.

To each of these families it was proposed to advance 200*l.* in ready money, as a stock to set them to work, and to hire and pay labourers to inclose clear, and cure the land; which, it was supposed the first year, could not be so much to their advantage as the following years; allowing them timber out of the forest to build themselves houses and barns, sheds, and offices, as they should have occasion; also for carts, waggons, ploughs, harrows, and the like necessary implements.

These 20 families would, by the consequence of their own settlements, employ and maintain such proportion of others of their own people, that the whole number of *Palatines* would have been provided for, had they been many more than they were, that without being any burden upon, or injury to the people of *England*; on the contrary, they would have been an advantage, and an addition of wealth and strength, to the nation, and to the country in particular where they should be thus seated.

Two things would have been answered by the execution of this scheme; viz.

1. That the annual rent to be received for all the lands, after 20 years, would abundantly pay publick for the first disbursements.
2. More money than would have done this thrown away upon them here, to keep them in suspense, and afterwards starve them; sending

them a begging all over the nation, and shipping them off to perish in other countries.

The spot, where the design was laid out, was near *Lindhurst*, in the road from *Romsey* to *Lymington*; whither I now directed my course.

Lymington is a little, but populous sea-port, standing opposite to the *Isle of Wight*, in the narrow part of the strait, through which ships pass in fair weather, called the *Needles*; and right against the ancient town of *South-Yarmouth*, in that isle. This town of *Lymington* is chiefly noted for returning two members to parliament, and for making excellent salt; from whence all these south parts of *England* are supplied, as well by water, as land-carriage. It is governed by a mayor, aldermen, and burgesses, without limitation; the mayor is chosen by the burgesses, and sworn at the court of the lord of the manor.

From hence are but few towns on the sea-coast west; though several considerable rivers empty themselves into the sea; nor are there any harbours or sea-ports of note, except *Pool*; which I shall take notice of in my next letter. As for *Christ-church*, though it stands at the mouth of the *Avon*, which, as I have said, comes down from *Salisbury*, and brings with it all the waters of the south and east parts of *Wiltshire*, and receives also the *Stour* and *Piddle*, two *Dorsetshire* rivers, which bring with them all the waters of the north part of *Dorsetshire*; yet it is a very inconsiderable, poor place, scarce worth seeing, although it returns two members to parliament.

LETTER VI.

*Containing a DESCRIPTION of the County of DORSET,
Part of SOMERSETSHIRE, DEVONSHIRE, CORNWALL, &c.*

I NOW enter into the county of *Dorset*; and first I rode north-west into it, to see the ancient town of *Wimburn* or *Wimburnminster*. The churches hereabouts, as well as the neighbouring county of *Hants*, called *Minsters*, were built by the *Saxon* kings on their conversion to christianity. The town stands in a large extended fertile vale, like a meadow, with much wood about it. The rivers abound with fish. Here was a nunnery built in the year 712, by *Cuthberga*, sister to king *Ina*. The church is a very large one, ancient, and well-built, with a very firm, strong square tower, considerably high; but was, without doubt, much nobler, when on the top of it stood a most exquisite spire, finer, and taller, if fame may be credited, than that of *Salisbury*; and, by its situation, in a plainer, flatter country, visible no question, much farther; but this most beautiful ornament was blown down by a sudden tempest of wind, as they tell us, in the year 1622.

In this church are the monuments of several noble families, and of king *Etheldred*, who was slain in battle by the *Danes*. He was a prince famed for piety; and, according to the zeal of those times, was esteemed a martyr; because he died fighting for his religion and his country against the *Pagan Danes*.

Here are also the monuments of the great marchioness of *Eweter*, mother of *Edward Courtney*, earl of *Devonshire*, and last of the family of *Courtney*,

who

who enjoyed that honour, the representative and lineal descendant of which is the present Viscount Courtney; and also of *John de Beaufort*, duke of *Somerset*, and his wife, grandmother of king *Henry VII.* by her daughter *Margaret*, countess of *Richmond*.

This last lady I mention, because she was foundress of a free-school; since enlarged by queen *Elizabeth*, who augmented the stipend, and annexed it to the foundation. The famous cardinal *Pole* was dean of this church before his exaltation.

The inhabitants of *Wimburnminster* are numerous, but poor, and chiefly maintained by the manufacture of knitting stockings; which employs great part of the county of *Dorset*, of which this is the first town eastward.

Wimburn St. Giles's, in this neighbourhood, is a very handsome seat belonging to the earl of *Shaftsbury*. Its form approaches to a parallelogram, consisting of three parts, which seem to have been built at different times, each of which are contracted by two inbencnings. The eastern part is the narrowest and most ancient, and seems to have been the ancient seat of the *Ashleys*. The western part is broader than any of the rest, and was built in 1651. The whole is embattled. The apartments below stairs are esteemed the best in *England*. Adjoining to it is a park two miles round. The garden is pleasant and spacious; the river *Allen* runs through it, and it is adorned with several pieces of water, pleasure-houses, statues, &c. Here is one of the finest grottos in *Eng'and*, which consists of two parts: the innermost and largest is furnished with a vast variety of curios shells, disposed in the most beautiful manner; the outer, or ante-grotto, with ores and minerals of all kinds, collected from various parts of the world. It was begun in 1751. The arrangement took

took up two years, and, with the expence of collecting the shells, ores, &c. cost 10,000 l. *

South of *Wimburn*, over a sandy, wild, and barren country, we came to *Pool*, the most considerable sea-port in this part of *England*, and which returns two members to parliament.

This place is noted for the best and largest oysters in all this part of *England*; which the people of *Pool* pretend to be excellent for pickling; and they are barrelled up here, and sent not only to *London*, but to the *West Indies*, and to *Spain*, *Italy*, and other parts. It is observed, more pearls are found in the *Pool* oysters, and larger, than in any others in *England*.

The entrance into the large bay of *Pool* is narrow; it is made still narrower by *Branksey Island*, which, lying in the very mouth of the passage, divides it into two, and where is an old castle, called *Branksey Castle*, built to defend the entrance, but without guns at present, though we have been at war with *France*. This island is now the property of Mr. *Strutt*, who has beautified it, and improved the value of it beyond what could be conceived.

Pool is a neat, compact, well-built town, much increased within these few years; the houses are mostly built of stone. The parish-church is large, a royal peculiar. Here are a town-house, custom-house, a convenient quay, and public warehouses. The bay furnishes it with fish in abundance, of different kinds. There is a great resort to their markets and fairs; which are now considerably improved, by the new turnpike roads lately made. The inhabitants will also reap from thence a farther benefit, by persons coming to bathe in the salt-water, for which no place can be more proper, as there is a sufficient

* *Hutchins's History and Antiquities of the County of Dorset*, printed in 1774.

depth at all times ; and as for the large tract that it covers, it must be considerably stronger and warmer in its reflux, than it otherwife would be.

The mouth of the harbour is about three miles south from *Pool*; the dpth there at high-water is about 16 feet; and when once ships are in, they ride in any of the branches of the bay as safely and commodiously as can be desired. This capacious haven lies in the midst between *Purbeck* and the *Isle of Wight*, and is said to enjoy one advantage over all other ports perhaps in *Britain*, which is, that the sea ebbs and flows four tiimes in 24 hours. First, with a south east and north-west moon; and then by a south-and-by-east, and a north and-by-west moon; which second flood is generally supposed to arise from the return of the fore-ebb, which coming from the *Sussex* coast, between the *Isle of Wight* and the continent of *Hampshire*, strikes in here, as lying in its way.

Pool is a borough and county of itself, governed by a mayor, &c.

Wareham has been a *Roman* town. There has been a castle by the water-side, west of the bridge, built by king *William I.* perhaps upon the *Roman*. It is an old corporation now decayed, the sands obstructing the passage of the vessels; yet returns two members to parliament. Here, they say, have been a mint, and 17 parish-churches; of which three only remain, viz. *St. Martin's*, *Trinity*, and *St. Mary's*; and they supplied by one minister. I saw a ruinous religious houle, as I passed by the river *Frome*. Two rocks about *Corfe-Castle* have an odd appearance hence.

The tower of *St. Mary's* is its chief ornament. It had formerly a wall and a strong castle, which have been long since demolished. It consists now only of two streets, crossing each other; and they

but meanly built. However, it has still a market, is governed by a mayor, &c. The chief trade here is in tobacco-pipe clay, of which the best in Great Britain is dug out of *Hunger-hill*, in its neighbourhood.

South of *Wareham*, and between the bay I have mentioned and the sea, lies a large tract of land; which being surrounded by the sea, except on one side, is called an island, though it is really more properly a peninsula. This tract of land is better inhabited than the sea-coast of the west end of *Dorsetshire* generally is; and the manufacture of stockings is carried on there also. It is called the *Isle of Purbeck*, and is about 10 miles long and six broad, and has in the middle of it a large market town, called *Corf*; and, from the famous castle there, the whole town is now called *Corf-Castle*. It is governed by a mayor, aldermen, &c. and returns two members to parliament. The lord of the manor is, by inheritance, lord lieutenant of the *Isle of Purbeck*. The church of *Corf-Castle* is a royal peculiar, large and lofty, and has a chapel of ease about a mile distant.

This part of the country is eminent for vast quarries of stone, which is cut out flat, and used in *London*, in great quantities, for paving court-yards, allies, avenues to houses, kitchens, foot-ways on the sides of the high-streets, and the like; and is very profitable to the place, as also in the number of shipping employed in bringing it to *London*. There are several rocks of very good marble, only that the veins in the stone are not black and white, as the *Italian*, but grey, red, and other colours.

From hence to *Weymouth* we rode in view of the sea. The country is open, and, in some respects, pleasant; but not like the northern parts of the county, which are all fine carpet-ground, and the herbage

herbage so sweet, that their sheep are esteemed the best in *England*, and their wool extremely fine.

From hence we turned up to *Dorchester*, the county-town, where the assizes are held, and the knights of the shire elected. It is one of the neatest and most agreeable towns in the county, and exceeded by few in *England*, being deliciously situated, in the southern part of the county, about six miles north from the *British Channel*, on a rising ground, which declines gently on the north, south, and east. On the west and south it borders on corn fields; on the north, its high situation overlooks spacious meadows, watered by two branches of the river *Frome*, bounded by hills that rise gently beyond them. One branch of this river runs on the north side of the town. This, with several seats, Mr. *Trenchard's* at *Wolveton*, lord *Ilchester's* at *Stinsford*, Mr. *Pitt's* at *Kingston*, &c. surrounded by groves of trees, afford a variety of objects, and form an agreeable landscape.

At a distance, the view of the town is very pretty, especially on the east and south. The towers of *St. Peter* at *Tordrington*, which is, as it were, a suburb to it, appear on every quarter to advantage; and the prospect would be compleated, had the towers of the *Holy Trinity* and *All Saints* been rebuilt proportionably to that of *St. Peter* after the fire in 1613. The country about it is level and fruitful; abounds with arable and sheep-pasture, 600,000 sheep being formerly computed to feed within six miles round this town, and their number is now greatly increased*. It is surrounded on the south and west, and part of the north and east, by pleasant walks, and planted with rows of limes and sycamore trees, as are the avenues to the town on the south-west and east. The air is pure and wholesome, but sharp and keen. The

* *Hutchins's Dorsetshire*, vol. I. p. 372.

town is regularly built, the streets intersecting each other at right angles. The buildings are chiefly of brick and stone, except some Flemish buildings of plaster and timber in the corn-market, and about St. Peter's church.

The town consists of three principal streets, broad and well-paved, which meet in the centre of the town, at the upper end of the south street, in which is the corn market, the copula, or market-house, the town-hall, St. Peter's church, &c. In the west street is Trinity church, and above it the Shire-hall. In the east street stands All Saints church; and below it, at the entrance into the town, the county-gaol.

Dorchester was anciently encompassed with an high and thick wall of stone, some remains of which are still to be seen. A market is held here on Saturdays, which is now much lessened. Before 1730, during the winter, great quantities of barley were brought to this market: a double row of waggons laden with it filled the corn-market, and a single one extended down through the south street, and sometimes even into the fields. Here are two smaller markets on Wednesdays and Fridays; and in the year are four fairs; at the three last of which great quantities of sheep and lambs are brought for sale.

Dorchester certainly existed in the British age, though we have no farther account of it but its bare name. In the Roman times it was a place of some note. Richard of Cirencester calls it the metropolis of the *Durostriges*, or the *Morini*, in the division of Britain called *Britannia Prima*, and makes one of the *Civitates Stipendiariæ*, or tributary towns. In the Itineraries of Antoninus and R. Cirencester, it appears as a Roman station: and indeed the ancient walls, the *Via Iceniana*, on which it stands; the several vicinal roads that issue hence; coins, and other pieces of antiquity found here; Maiden castle, and

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the amphitheatre at *Maumbury* near it; shew it to have been then a place of consideration. It is governed by a mayor, alderman, bailiffs, and capital burgesses, and sends two members to parliament.

Fordington is a large village adjoining to *Dorchester*, on the east, and was anciently a suburb to it, and part of it. It seems to derive its name from the ford or passage over the river *Frome*. The common highway, or public road from *London*, the town of *Blandford*, and other places east of *Dorsetshire*, lie over part of the common or moor, through a considerable length of waters, subject to floods in the time of heavy rains, and through a ford on the river *Frome*, which is a very dangerous passage both for horses and carriages, and, in times of floods, utterly impassable. Sensible of these inconveniences, a public-spirited lady, Mrs. *Lora Pitt*, proposed to obtain an act of parliament to erect a bridge over the river *Frome*; and to make a causeway to the east-end of the town of *Dorchester*, over *Fordington Moor*; which passed in the session of 1746. She also agreed to maintain this road and bridge for three years, at her own expence. The arches of the bridge extend over the river, and other founderous places of the moor, where the new road is made, which leads to the town of *Dorchester*. A design of such public utility greatly redounds to the honour of the lady, and must have given her a satisfaction, that only a generous mind can receive, from contemplating the ease, safety, and advantage, accruing from so laudable a benefaction to her fellow-subjects.

The inhabitants care in setting the able poor to work, and relieving the aged and impotent, is highly praise-worthy. And sir *John Child*, in his treatise on trade, recommends their example as worthy to be followed by other places.

Within three miles of this town is *Milton Abbey*, the seat of lord *Milton*, who has made many improvements here of the most capital kind, which so happily unite with the beauties of the ground as to render the whole uncommonly fine.

The great peculiarity of the place is a remarkable winding valley, three miles long, surrounded on every side by hills, whose variety is very great. It is all lawn; and, as the surface has many fine swells, and other gentle inequalities, the effect is every where beautiful. The hills, on one side, are thickly covered with wood, from the edging of the vale itself, quite spreading over the tops of the hills: these continued sweeps of hanging woods are very noble. In some places they form bold projections, which break forward in a pleasing stile: in others, they withdraw, and open fine bosoms of wood, which are as picturesque as can be easily imagined. Throughout the whole, the union of lawn and wood is admirable.

On the other side of the vale, the hills are partly bare; but are clumped with new plantations, and scattered with single trees and thorns, contrasting the continued woods on the other hills in the boldest manner. The riding that surrounds the amphitheatre rises the hill on this side, and, skirting the edge of it in the way to the house, looks down on the vale, and has a full command of the vast range of woods, which hang on the other sides of the other hills. One of the views is uncommonly fine: it is a projection of the opposite hill; the sloping bend fringed with a filleting of wood, and the crown of the hill a lawn scattered with single trees gently hanging to the eye: a landscape truly pleasing.

In other places, you look down steep winding hollows, in which romantic clumps of wood seem swallowed up by the impending hills.

On

On rising the hill, if you turn the other way, towards the head of the vale, you look down from without the wall, commanding all the waves of the lawn at the bottom, which form a most pleasing scenery, and look full into a vast theatre of wood, which terminates the vale: the view nobly romantic.

From the top of the hill, full northwards, is a very great prospect over the vale of *Blackmoor*: innumerable inclosures are spread forth to the eye, the whole being bounded by distant hills.

The abbey is one of the most antient buildings in *England*, being founded by king *Abelstan*. It joins an old church, which is yet of a great size, but was once as large as most cathedrals. It is a very fine *Gothic* building, and has a fret-work cieling in stone, remarkably light. The situation of these edifices is very fine: it is a regular knole, which swells boldly in the middle of the grand amphitheatre, formed by the surrounding hills; an instance out of many of the judgement with which the Monks chose their situations. In one of the rooms is a most agreeable copy of *Titian's* famous *Venus* in the *Tribuna at Florence*: the soft and tender delicacy of the colouring, which is animated nature, is bewitching; the grace and ease of the attitudes are also most happily caught.

Few great houses have a finer approach: his lordship has cut and formed a spacious road, six miles in length, through his grounds, leading from *Blandford*, *London*, &c. It passes chiefly through his vast woods, which, as they cover the sides of hills, open in various places, and let in most agreeable views of the neighbouring and the distant country. All the home grounds are walking in, which will include a circuit of sixteen miles; and the tops of the hills all planted with a great variety of trees, to the amount of five hundred acres. The whole of these works are conducted

ducted in a great style, with equal taste and spirit: they are an ornament to the whole country, and do honour to their noble proprietor.

A little out of the road from *Dorchester* to *Bridport*, near the former town, are two very famous objects: one, the most complete *Roman* encampments in *England*, contains circumvallations; called *Maiden-castle*; and the other, a remarkable amphitheatre of earth: both well worth a traveller's observation.

At the turnpike, about half way between *Dorchester* and *Bridport*, begins one of the finest landscape countries to the left I ever saw. You there look over a vale bounded by waving hills, all cut into inclosures of the finest verdure, the sea picturesquely breaking above the hills. Mounting the hill, till you come to the sixth mile-stone to *Bridport*, you find a spot that is amazingly elegant: it is a circular hollow scoop in a vast hill of the most beautiful soft green that can be imagined: the waves in it have exactly the appearance of that softness which is seen in the driven snow. The bottom of the hollow is cut into little stripes of cultivation, which, from the vast depth of the declivity, have a picturesque appearance. In the front, before it, are beautiful sweeps of inclosures, which keep a perpetual waving line, forming the happiest outline to the sea that can be imagined. To the right, the view is bounded by distant craggy points that project very abruptly to the sea.

Leaving this very fine spot, and following the road down the hill, you catch to the right a most peculiar landscape: a bold, circular, regularly-swelling hill, rises out of a vast hollow in the down: the effect uncommonly magnificent, and would be more so, if a few places in it were not scarred with chalk. Immediately under the hill, a little tuft of inclosures, which seem tossed into the hollow, look wild and pretty.

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pretty. Pursuing the road towards *Bridport*, till you come a little beyond the fifth mile-stone, you overlook a very large vale, inclosed on every side by high hills; and, what is uncommon, the valley itself all swelling ground, that rises and falls in gentle inequalities. In the centre rises a bold swell; one of the finest situations I have seen for a great house. From hence, the whole way to *Bridport*, is a perpetual picture: all hill and dale, some boldly abrupt, some gentle and more pleasing: the whole tossed about in the wildest manner imaginable, all cut into inclosures, the hedges well fringed with trees, and every landscape different, but striking.

A more varied or more beautiful country is nowhere to be seen in *England*, than from the first turnpike out of *Dorchester*, all the way to *Bridport*, and well worth a long journey to see.

Returning on the same road to *Dorchester*, I pursued my journey southward, designing to enter *Bridport* by another road. From *Dorchester* it is six miles to the sea-side, having the ocean in view almost all the way. The first towns we come to are *Weymouth* and *Melcomb-Regis*, lying at the mouth of a little rivulet, called *The Wey*, for it scarce deserve the name of a river: however, the entrance makes a very good, though small, harbour, and they are joined by a wooden bridge of 19 arches; so that nothing but the harbour parts them; yet they are separate corporations, and choose each of them two members of parliament. The occasion this: as distinct boroughs, they were often quarrelling about their privileges, so that they were both deprived of them by *Henry VI.* Queen *Elizabeth* restored them both, on condition that they should make but one corporation, and enjoy their privileges in common, which has caused both to flourish. They are governed by a mayor, recorder, two bailiffs, &c. The freemen of both

vote

vote for four burgesses, though they are returned as two for each. And the least freeholder has a vote, though he be not an inhabitant.

Weymouth is a sweet, clean, well-built town (considering its low situation), and close to the sea. It has a great many substantial merchants in it, who drive a considerable trade, and have a great number of ships belonging to the town. They carry on, in time of peace, a trade with *France*: they trade also to *Portugal*, *Spain*, *Newfoundland*, and *Virginia*; and have a large correspondence up in the country for the consumption of their returns. The wine and *Newfoundland* trade are both considerable here at *Weymouth*; and it is a custom-house, and a good quay.

Melcombe is, however, the largest town, and has several streets full of good houses, and a fine market-place, where are two markets on *Tuesday* and *Friday*. Together, they grow rich, by a great sea-faring trade carried on continually.

Weymouth, of late years, has been much frequented for its commodious sea-bathing, which it furnishes in a manner superior to any other place in this kingdom. The general tranquillity of its bay, the clearness of the water, the softness and almost imperceptible descent of its bottom, are so favourable for the purpose of sea-immersion even to the most timorous and debilitated, that I do not wonder at its being the resort of many people of the first distinction. It has all the requisite accommodations which are furnished by other public places; such as assembly-rooms, coffee-houses, billiard-tables, &c. &c. and houses are daily building for the better accommodation of company, which is found annually to increase.

Without the harbour is an old castle, called *Sandfort-castle*; and over against it is *Portland-castle*, situated in the isle of that name, and the road called

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Portland-road, which affords a safe harbour for ships in bad weather.

From the isle of *Portland* comes our best and whitest free-stone, with which the cathedral of *St. Paul's*, the *Monument*, and all the public edifices in the city of *London*, are built: the quarries, whence these stones are dug, are well worth the observation of a traveller.

The island is indeed little more than one continued rock of free-stone, about seven miles in compass; and the height of the land is such, that from this island they see, in clear weather, above half over the *Channel to France*, though here it is very broad. The sea off this island, and especially to the west of it, is counted the most dangerous part of the *British channel*. Due-south, there is almost a continued disturbance in the waters, by reason of what they call two tides meeting; which I take to be no more than the sets of the currents from the *French* coast, and from the *English* shore; this they call *Portland Race*; and several ships, not aware of these currents, have been embayed to west of *Portland*, and driven on shore on the beach (of which I shall speak presently), where they have been lost.

To prevent this danger, and guide the mariner in these distresses, they have set up two light-houses on the two points of that island, which are very useful and serviceable to ships.

This island, though seemingly miserable, and thinly inhabited; yet, the inhabitants being almost all stone-cutters, we found there were no very poor people among them; and, when money was collected for the rebuilding *St. Paul's*, they got more in this island, than in the great town of *Dorchester*.

In the year 1756, an act passed for completing a church, the old one being too small and ruinous, the cliff having fallen into the sea, whereby the

verge

verge of the remaining part thereof was within 36 feet of the foundation of the church.

Though *Portland* stands a league from the main land of *Britain*, yet it is almost joined by a prodigious riff of beach, that is to say, of small stones cast up by the sea; which runs from the island so near the shore of *England*, that they ferry over with a boat and a rope, the water not being above half a stone's-throw over; and the said riff of beach ending, as it were, at that inlet of water, turns away west, and runs parallel with the shore quite to *Abbotsbury*, a town about seven miles beyond *Weymouth*.

I name this to explain what I said before of ships being embayed and lost here; this is when, coming from the westward, they omit to keep a good offing, or are taken short by contrary winds, and cannot weather the high land of *Portland*; but are driven between *Portland* and the main land, and run on shore on that vast beach.

On the inside of this beach, and between it and the land, is the said inlet of water; which they ferry over, as above, to pass and repass to and from *Portland*. This inlet opens at about two miles west, grows very broad, and makes a kind of lake within the land of a mile and a half broad, and near three miles in length. At the farthest end west of this water is a large decoy, and the verge of the water well grown with wood, and proper groves of trees for cover for the fowl. In the open lake, or broad part, is a continual assembly of swans. Here the ducks live, feed, and breed; and the number of them is such, that, I believe, I did not see so few as 7 or 8000. We saw several of them upon the wing, very high in the air; whence, we supposed, they flew over the riff of beach, which parts the lake from the sea, to feed on the shores.

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From this decoy west the lake narrows, and at last almost closes, till the beach joins the shore; and so *Portland* may be said not to be an island, but part of the continent.

And now we came to *Abbotsbury*, a town anciently famous for a great monastery, and now eminent for nothing but its ruins.

From hence we went on to *Bridport*. It consists of three principal streets, which are broad and spacious; but were, till of late, ill paved. The buildings were chiefly of stone and *Flemish*, but mean. However, since the year 1720, a great many good brick-houses have been built here, and the streets well-paved. The soil being strong and rich, this place, and the adjacent parishes, produce plenty of excellent hemp; and the inhabitants are great artists in making and twisting all sorts of ropes and cables. *Saturday* is its market-day. It is governed by two bailiffs, a recorder, &c. and sends two members to parliament.

Here we saw boats all the way on the shore fishing for mackerel; which they take in the easiest manner imaginable, and in such prodigious plenty, that there has been a watch set to prevent farmers from dunging their land with them, which, it was thought, might be apt to infect the air.

In the year 1722, an act passed for restoring the haven and piers of *Bridport*, in order to bring it to its ancient flourishing state; for heretofore it was a place of great trade and commerce; but, by reason of a general sickness, which swept away the greatest part of its most wealthy inhabitants, and by other accidents, the haven became neglected, and choaked with sands; the piers fell to ruin, and the town, of consequence, to decay; so that there was no security for ships that happened to be driven by stress of weather into the deep and dangerous bay, wherein the haven

haven formerly was, which occasioned frequent ship-wrecks. The act therefore authorises the bailiffs and burgesses of *Bridport* to levy certain tolls on divers merchandizes, &c. in order to restore the said piers and harbour. However, the act has not yet been fully executed.

From *Bridport* we came to *Lyme*, called *Lyme-Regis*. It is governed by a mayor, recorder, &c. and returns two members to parliament.

In *Leland's* time it was in good condition; but *Camden* speaks slightly of its harbour, and as serving only for fishing-barks. The trade, however, revived in the reign of king *James I.* the inhabitants striking into a considerable trade to *Newfoundland*, *France*, *Spain*, and the *Straits*. It must be said, that *Lyme-Regis* has neither creek or bay, road or river; yet has an harbour so constructed, that the like is not to be found either in this kingdom or any other; and seems to be of the inhabitants own contrivance.

The materials for it were vast rocks weighed up out of the sea, with empty casks (at what time we know not), which casks being placed in a regular order to a considerable breadth, and carried out a great way, some say 300 yards, the interstices being filled up with earth, high and thick walls of stone were built upon those rocks, in the main sea, and so thick, that large buildings (among them a handsome custom house upon pillars, with a corn-market under it, and warehouses) have been erected thereon. Opposite to this, but farther into the sea, is another wall of the same workmanship, which crosses the end of the first, and comes about with a tail parallel to that. But the point of the first or main wall is the entrance into the port, and the second or opposite wall breaking the violence of the sea from the entrance, the ships go into the basin, and,

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and, being defended from all winds, ride there as secure as in a mill-pond or wet dock.

This singular work, which answers the intention of a pier, is called *The Cobbe*; and for keeping it in constant repair (which is done at the expence of the town, and proves sometimes very chargeable) there are annually chosen two *Cobbe-Wardens*.

The unfortunate duke of *Monmouth*, having with him a frigate of 30 guns and two merchant-ships, landed her June 11, 1685. Many of his party were afterwards put to death on the spot, and their limbs hung up in the town.

Lyme might be strengthened by a fort; but, as the walls of the *Cobbe* are firm enough to carry what guns they please to plant upon them, they did not seem to think it needful, especially as the shore is convenient for batteries; they have therefore some guns planted in proper places, for the defence of the *Cobbe* and the town.

Nevertheless it suffered by the *French* war in the reign of queen *Anne*; but is recovered since. Many handsome stone-houses have been lately built by merchants residing there; and it might be rendered of much greater importance than it is, if any new manufacture could be introduced in the country behind it; which is certainly plentiful enough to admit not only of one, but of many improvements. It is not, however, unlikely, that, if the inhabitants of this part recurred to the very arts from which, according to the best authorities, the town derived its existence near 1000 years ago, that is, making salt, it might very speedily and effectually answer their purposes, since by the help of shallow marshes (into which the sea-water being admitted, the rest of the work could be easily performed by the heat of the sun, as is done on the opposite coast of *France*), as good salt as any might be produced; for which the place seems to be

exceedingly well situated, and to have very commodious advantages, as their concern in the fishery would furnish an immediate market for all they could possibly make.

Before we leave *Lyme-Regis*, it may not be amiss to mention, that, notwithstanding modern as well as ancient writers speak of the construction of this port, as something very singular and extraordinary, yet none have proposed the imitation of it, though there cannot be a more pregnant instance than this, of the possibility of making (though it may be in a better manner) a port upon almost any part of our coast, where the convenience of the country required, or the opening such a port should appear the most probable means of improving it; one or other of which circumstances would turn such ports to the advantage of most of all the maritime counties in this island. After all, *Lyme*, considering the largeness of it, may pass for a place of wealth.

Here we found the merchants began to trade in the pilchard fishing, though not to so considerable a degree as they do farther west; the pilchards seldom coming up so high eastward as *Portland*, and not very often so high as *Lyme*.

I visited from hence some of the towns in the north-west part of the country; as *Blandford* (in the road between *Salisbury* and *Dorchester*), an handsome well-built town, pleasantly seated in a flexure of the river, before charming meadows, and rich lands. Wood thrives exceedingly here. Indeed this country is a fine variety of downs, woods, lawns, arable and pasture land, rich vallies, and an excellent air. The dry easterly winds, the cold northern, and the western moisture, are tempered by the warm southern saline breezes, wafted hither from the ocean. But *Blandford* is chiefly famous for making the finest bone-lace in *England*; where they shewed me,

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in my first visit to it, some so exquisitely fine, as I think I never saw better in *Flanders, France, or Italy*; and which, they said, they rated at above 30*l.* sterling a yard.

This was the state and the trade of the town when I was there in my first journey; but June 4, 1731, the whole town, except 26 houses, was consumed by fire, together with the church. The consternation of the people was so great, and the fire so furious, that few saved any goods.

An act passed in 1732, for the better and more easily rebuilding of this town, and for determining differences touching houses and buildings burnt down or demolished therein; and, as several wise regulations were made by it, *Blandford* now makes a much better appearance than ever.

It is governed by two bailiffs. Formerly it sent two members to parliament; but it has lost that privilege. Anciently it was noted for the manufacture of band-strings, as it is now for straw-hats, as well as for bone-laces. It is pleasantly situated on the banks of the *Stour*; and is surrounded with a great number of gentlemens seats, and has a good market on Saturdays.

From *Blandford* I took a turn to view one of the largest and most stately fabricks in the kingdom: I mean the house belonging to the right honourable *George Dodington, esq;* afterwards lord *Melcombe*. It is situated in the parish of *Gunville*, four miles from *Blandford*, and six from *Shaftesbury* and *Cranborne*. The house, gerdens, and park, containing about eight miles in circumference, are now called *Eastbury*.

You approach this house through a beautiful little lawn; and, passing through the grand arcade, on each side of which the offices are ranged, you land from a flight of steps of 11 feet high, under a noble

Doric

Doric portico, crowned with a pediment extending 62 feet, the pillars whereof are 46 feet high; from whence you enter a most magnificent hall, adorned with many statues and busts.

The salon is one of the finest rooms in the kingdom, and is beautifully and richly decorated. At one end of this salon are three noble apartments; one hung with crimson velvet, another with flowered velvet, and the third with satin; all richly laced with gold. At the other end are a drawing-room and large dining-room. The marble tables in these rooms are exceedingly curious, and of great value; they were purchased out of one of the *Italian* palaces.

The main body of the house extends 144 feet, and is 95 feet in depth; to which join the arcades, which form the great court. This court is 160 feet in breadth, in the clear; and its depth, from the house to the entrance, is 210 feet. The arcades are 10 feet wide. The offices, placed on each side these arcades, in the centre of them, extend each 133 feet, and are in depth 161 feet. The inner court of these offices are 160 feet by 80, in the clear. Beyond these, other buildings are carried in the same line, 50 feet each way, and which form two other courts; so that the whole front of the building and offices extends 570 feet. These buildings being of different heights, and the turrets at each corner of the house, with their *Venetian* windows, rising above all the rest, give the whole structure a very grand appearance.

The gardens, to make them equal with the house, will require a great deal of alteration; they being at first ill laid out. Water is here very much wanting, and more plantations of wood would greatly improve the spot.

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A little mile distant from *Blandford*, I visited Mr. *Portman's* cliff, as a curiosity. It is a hill planted in a beautiful and simple irregularity, with many stately trees. The fine turf and soft mossy walks, the easy decline in some places, and the steep descent in others, render the whole delightful. It is carried, in a semicircular form, near two miles towards *Blandford*, a view of which is presented to the eye. But what adds much to the charms of this place, is the river *Stour*, which runs in sweet meanders in the valley below. Upon the whole, it is one of the most superb and pleasing scenes of the kind I ever saw.

From *Blandford* I went west to *Stourbridge*, which, and the country round, are employed in the manufacture of stockings: it was once famous for making the finest, best, and highest-priced knit stockings in *England*; but that trade is much decayed by the increase of the knitting-stocking engine, or frame, which has destroyed the hand-knitting-trade, for fine stockings, through the whole kingdom.

From hence I came to *Sherborn*, a town of great note and antiquity in the *Saxon* age.

Its situation is pleasant, partly on a declining hill, and partly in a vale, and, by its southern exposure, very fertile. The buildings are old, generally of stone, and not very regular or lofty, having been so fortunate as to escape great fires, to which some towns owe their regularity and beauty; but, of late years, several neat houses have been built in the modern taste. It is two miles in circumference, and, including *Casleton*, is the largest town in the county, and the most populous, except *Pool*.

We have little reason to imagine, that this place had any being, or was of any note, in the *British* or even in the *Roman* times, as no traces of

either of these people appear in the name of it, nor any barrows, coins, or forts, which seem to relate to them.

Since the Reformation, the cloathing trade is quite lost; instead of which, before 1700, making of buttons, haberdashery wares, and bone-lace, employed a great many hands; but these branches are now removed into the north, and principally to *Manchester*. At present, the markets and fairs, and the passengers from *London* to *Exeter*, &c. are its chief support.

Here was formerly a strong castle, which stood on an hill in the eastern part of *Castleton*, to which it gives name. It commanded all the adjacent vale on the north and west, which, being not long since drained, is converted into a rich meadow and fish-pond. Mr. *Coker* says, that "Sir *Walter Rawleigh* began very fairly to repair this castle; but altering his purpose, he built in the park adjoining to it, from the ground, a most fine house, which he beautified with orchards, gardens, and groves, of such variety and delight, that whether you consider the goodness of the soil, the pleasantness of the seat, and other delicacies belonging to it, it is unparallelled by any in these parts." It stands a little north from the ruins of the old castle, and is built in form of the letter H. The middle part was erected by sir *Walter Rawleigh*, and in one of the windows his arms still appear, and this date, 1594. The rest was built by the earl of *Bristol*: it is now the seat of lord *Digby*. The ruins of the castle, sir *Walter Rawleigh's* grove, a grove planted by Mr. *Pope*, and a noble serpentine body of water, with a fine stone bridge of several arches over it, made by the late lord *Digby*, conspire to make this seat one of the most venerable and beautiful in *England*.

Shaftesbury

Shaftesbury is also on the edge of this county, adjoining to *Wiltshire*, being 14 miles from *Salisbury*, over that fine down or carpet-ground, called *Salisbury plain*. It is situated upon the top of an high hill, and which closes the plain or downs, and whence a new scene is presented; viz. a prospect of *Somersetshire* and *Wiltshire*, where it is all inclosed, and grown with woods, forests, and planted hedge-rows; the country rich, fertile, and populous; the towns and houses standing thick, and being large, and full of inhabitants, and those inhabitants fully employed in the richest and most valuable manufacture in the world; viz. the *English* cloathing, as whites, both for the home and foreign trade; on which I shall be more particular in my return through the west and north parts of *Wiltshire*.

Shaftesbury, a few years ago, received some improvement from the generosity of a neighbouring gentleman, and particularly in a fine plantation on the top of *Park hill*, which he was so kind as to indulge the inhabitants with for a place of walking and diversion; but attempting, on the strength of his good offices to the town, to recommend to them one member of parliament out of two, he met not with the grateful return he might have expected, violence having been done to the very plantation he had so generously devoted to the service and pleasure of the inhabitants.

Shaftesbury is a great thoroughfare and post-road, which causes it to be much frequented. It has three churches. The houses are most of them built with free-stone. It has a very good market on *Saturdays*, is governed by a mayor, two aldermen, &c. and sends two members to parliament.

A few miles from hence is *Wardour Castle*, the seat of lord *Wardour*, who has pulled down the old house, and is erecting a new one, which, when
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finished, will vie with the finest edifices in this kingdom. In the same neighbourhood also is *Font-hill*, the fine house of the late *William Beckford* esquire, twice lord mayor of *London*.

We were very desirous of visiting *Stourton*, or, as it is sometimes called *Stourhead*, the fine seat of Mr. *Hoare*; and, being now within a few miles of it, we did not fail gratifying our wishes; and, passing through *Mere*, we soon arrived at this delightful place.

The house is built of stone, in an oblong form, from a design of Mr. *Colin Campbell*, the architect of *Wanstead* in *Essex*. It consists of a grand floor between a rustic basement and an attic story, and contains some fine rooms and elegant apartments. The principal entrance is by a double flight of stone-steps into a very handsome hall, of more than 30 feet square, adorned with pictures, bustos, statues, &c. From thence crossing the stair-case vestibule you enter the saloon, a very noble and pleasing room, 60 feet in length, and of a proportionable breadth and height. It is lighted by three large windows at the end, and contains only one door, which is opposite the centre window. On each side the hall and saloon is a range of very handsome rooms, consisting of an eating-room, library, gallery, and bed-chamber apartments. The whole is furnished in a very handsome manner, and is replete with curiosities and valuable pictures, some of which are matchless, and of the best masters: the pictures hang by two hinges at one side, which gives an opportunity of examining them in a proper light: I never saw this elsewhere. This house, while it possesses a proportionable grandeur, is a model for the comfortable and convenient disposition of its apartments, arrangement of its offices, &c.

From

From the principal front there is a very pleasing, diversified prospect; but this did not delay us from turning through a gate to the right of the house into a large lawn, whereon is a large statue of the *Belvidere Apollo*, at the end whereof a winding shady walk leads to a very noble avenue of fir-trees, terminated by a handsome obelisk; leaving this walk, and descending a short way through a wood, you arrive at a large tent, fixed to the spot, and made in the form of an eastern pavilion. This point commands a view of the lake, the pantheon, hanging wood, the temple of the Sun, &c. which form a scene of the most polished beauty. Descending from hence to the side of the lake, and crossing an arm of it, by a wooden bridge, consisting of one very extensive and lofty arch, from a design of *Palladio*, you enter the bottom of the hanging wood, where stones, roots, &c. mark the passage to the grotto, whose pebble floor and ivy-mantled roof denote it to be the grotto of Nature. It receives its light from a circular aperture in the roof, from whence the wild plants suspend their dropping tendrils, and form an arch in the wall, through which the eye catches a part of the lake. In a recess in the grotto is a marble basin, which is used as a cold bath, and is supplied by a beautiful dropping spring, that distills its slender streams around the marble statue of a sleeping nymph, placed in the interior part of the recess. In the front of the bath, on its marble margin, the following lines of Mr. *Pope* are inscribed:

*Nymph of the grot, these sacred streams I keep,
And to the murmur of these waters sleep:
Ab, spare my slumbers, gently tread the cave;
And drink in silence, or, in silence, lave!*

Almost adjoining is another lesser grot of the same kind characteristically adorned, in which a river god

is seen reclining upon an urn, which is actually the fountain of the river *Stour*, whose stream issues from thence in a clear and copious stream, which falls immediately into the lake. From this delicious spot, ascending by steps of rugged stone, you pass through a skirt of the wood above the grotto, and descending on the other side to the verdant banks of the lake, you approach the building called the *Pantheon*, from the portico whereof you look back, over the lake, to a finely wooded brow, on whose declivity the tent is placed which I have already mentioned. This building is erected on the model of the pantheon at *Rome*, and therefore bears its name; and, except the temple of *Concord* in lord *Temple's* gardens at *Stow*, is the most superb garden-building in *Great Britain*. It contains a rotunda of about 36 feet in diameter, which is lighted from its dome, and is adorned with statues placed in niches, over which are characteristic *lafo relieves*. But the principal object in this room, is a modern one of *Hercules* by Mr. *Rybrack*, and allowed to be the *chef d'œuvre* of that celebrated artist.

Proceeding to the right from this beautiful structure, the eye is surprized with a magnificent cascade, which falls in very fine breaks into a shaggy valley on the outside of the garden, and is supplied by the overflux of the lake, which, by this means, never overflows its banks, and, from the supply of the river, never sinks beneath them, but preserves a continual fullness. Passing onwards, through a small shrubbery, you ascend a rude flight of steps, irregularly detached from each other, which conduct you through various cells of ore, minerals, stone, and such rude materials, which form a passage into another part of the improvements, which are divided by a common road, and receive their communication from this rude but well-constructed arch. Proceeding up the hill, whose steepnes is alleviated by a meandering

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meandering path, you arrive at a shady and thick-planted grove, where a root-house claims your attention; it is well and judiciously formed, nor is it without the solemn accompaniments of eremitical solitude, the scull, and the hour-glass. Passing from hence along the side of the hill, the temple of the Sun was the next object of our admiration; it is a very superb edifice, and commands a view not only of every thing hitherto described, but also of the adjacent country, the park, and *Alfred's* tower, a most magnificent object, which will be mentioned hereafter.

Descending a fine verdant slope from this building, by a subterranean grot, we passed under the road over which the rugged arch had before conducted us, and re-entered the principal part of the gardens, near a beautiful stone bridge of three arches, which is thrown across a branch of the lake. From this bridge, and a little to the left of it, there is an assemblage of beautiful objects both near and distant, such, indeed, as would demand the pencil of a *Claude* to delineate with any tolerable degree of perfection. Passing from hence through the skirts of the wood, by a *Doric* building called the temple of *Ceres*, whose portico faces the lake, and winding onwards, by an ascending embowered path, we came to a small rustic green-house, with parterres and platforms of flowers, and scented shrubs, in a small open garden before it: a path from hence leads to the gate through which we were conducted to the village, and to our inn.

Near this gate, on a small jutting point of the garden, which is let into the village as it were by a funk fence, stands a gawdy, enriched, ancient cross, of a considerable height, which, some years ago, stood in the city of *Bristol*; but, being an obstruction to some proposed improvements in that city, it was procured by Mr. *Hoare*, and brought piece meal in

waggons to *Stourhead*; and, after being repaired and richly coloured, it was erected on this spot, where it is a very contrasting and ornamental object.

The part of Mr. *Hoare's* improvement already described, is the most classical and polished scene in this island. But this is not all. We were strongly recommended to visit *Alfred's* tower, a very magnificent building, erected on a spot which is rendered memorable by a victory supposed to have been there gained by that brave, wise, and illustrious monarch.

Having procured a chaise for this purpose, we proceeded, through Mr. *Hoare's* woods and park, to a little building called the *Nunnery*. It is a Gothic design, and has some good old portraits in its apartment, and serves as a place for occasional dinner and tea-drinking entertainments. Its situation is very romantic. From hence, by a winding road, we ascended the terrace, which is of a great length and breadth, and from whence there is the most extensive inland prospect I ever beheld. At the extreme point, which is a bold jutting eminence planted with firs, stands *Alfred's* tower. It is a triangular building of white brick, large in its dimensions, and of a very great height. At each angle there is a tower, one of which contains a circular stair-case, that leads to a small room at the top, just sufficient for the placing of telescopes. From hence there is a prospect in circumference and extent really astonishing. The interior part of the building is open to the top, it seems to be intended chiefly as an object, and a most noble one it is. For though it is without any ornament, except the figure of king *Alfred* in a niche, and the inscription under it, which is over the entrance, and is nothing but a lofty wall of brick, with the projecting towers of the same materials and plainness, yet such are the proportions, that it possesses the most affecting simplicity and natural grandeur.

dear I ever remember to have seen in any single structure, of any kind or in any country.

Returning from hence along the terrace, commanding as we passed different parts of several counties, we passed by the back entrance of the house to our inn, having made a tour of eight miles within the improvements belonging to Mr. Hoare. After this long description I shall only add, that the most captivating beauties of nature, the highest polish of art, and the magnificence arising from largeness of domain and extent of prospect; combine to constitute the perfection of *Stourhead*.

In my return to my western progress, I passed some other little parts of *Somersetshire*, as through *Evil*, or *Yeovil*, upon the river *Ivil*; in going to which we descend a long steep hill, called *Babylon-hill*; but from what original, I could find none of the country-people able to inform me.

Northward, upon an high sandy hill, by the bank of the river *Ivil*, is a *Roman* camp, called *Chesterton*; under which lies the town of *Sandy*, the *Salinae* of the *Romans*, where abundance of *Roman* and *British* antiquities have been found, and great quantities of coins.

Yeovil is a market-town of good resort, and some little cloathing is carried on in and near it. Its principal manufacture at this time is gloves. It deals also in corn, cheese, hemp, and all sorts of provisions.

It cannot pass my observation here, that, when we are come this length from *London*, the dialect of the English tongue, or the country way of expressing themselves, is not easily understood. It is the same in many parts of *England* besides, but in none in so gross a degree as in this part. As this way of boorish speech is in *Ireland* called, *the brougue upon the tongue*, so here it is named *jouring*. It is not possible to ex-

P. 5. plain:

plain this fully by writing, because the difference is not so much in the orthography, as in the tone and accent; their abridging the speech, *ebam*, for *I am*; *ebil*, for *I will*; *don*, for *do en*, or *put en*; and *doff*, for *ds off*, or *put off*; and the like*.

I cannot omit a short story here on this subject: coming to a relation's house, who was a school-master at Martock in Somersetshire, I went into his school to beg the boys, or rather the *mäster*, a play-day. I observed one of the lowest scholars was reading his lesson to the usher in a chapter in the Bible, I sat down by the master, till the boy had read it out, and observed the boy read a litt'e oddly in the tone of the country, which made me the more attentive; because, on enquiry, I found that the words were the same, and the orthography the same, as in all our Bibles. I observed also the boy read it out with his eyes still on the book, and his head, like a mere boy, moving from side to side, as the lines reached across the columns of the bo k: his lesson was in the *Canticles of Solomon*; the words these:

"I have put off my coat; how shall I put 'it on?
I have washed my feet; how shall I defile them?"

The boy read thus, with his eyes, as I say, full on the text:

"Chav a doffed my coot; how shall I don't? chav a washed my feet; how shall I moil 'em?"

How the dexterous dunce could form his mouth to express so readily the words (which stood right print-ed in the book) in his country jargon, I could not ~~but~~ admire; and much more so, how the master should patiently hear such *jouning*.

We likewise see their *jouning* speech even upon their monuments and grave-stones; as for example:

* This reminds us of an old story of a publican, who wrote a most common word under his sign with thirteen false spellings in it, viz. eight wrong letters, instead of the five right; *joumous* instead of *oysage*.

in some of the church yards of the city of *Bristol*,
I saw this poetry after some other lines —

*And when that thou dost bear of Thick,
Think of the glas that runneth quick.*

Another.

*Him shall never come again to we ;
But us shall surely one day go to be.*

From *Evil*, or *Yeovil*, we came to *Crookhorn*, thence to *Chard*, which immediately brought me into *Devonshire*.

It may not be unacceptable here to insert a general description of this large county; which may convey to the reader some idea of the nature of the soil, its productions, and the method of improvement, as well as the manufactures, and merchandizes, on which the trading part of the inhabitants subsist.

The western part of the county bordering on *Cornwall*, and all round the skirts of *Dartmore*, as well as that large forest itself, consists of a very coarse, moory, or fenny soil, very barren in its nature; in some places productive of nothing but a dwarf kind of furze, of little or no value. In this part of the county, however, of late years, the quantity of tillage ground, which formerly was coarse, or covered with furze, is very great, owing chiefly to the cultivation of potatoes. At other places grow nothing but rushes, or a coarse, sour kind of pasturage, which the cattle will not feed upon; and therefore it dries up, and withers into a sedge. The soil here is generally a stiff clay, through which the water cannot soak away; this renders it very unhealthy, especially to sheep, which in those parts are of a small kind, and very subject to the rot, which (in wet seasons

P 6 especially,

(especially) destroys them in great numbers; and what adds to the malady is, that neither the industry of the husbandman (for which this county is deservedly famous), nor any compost that has yet been found out, will to any purpose cure this sterility. About *Tavistock*, *Bideford*, and most towns by rivers, the country is pretty well cultivated.

The principal, and indeed the only profitable return, that the inhabitants can make out of those sterile lands, is by breeding black cattle, for which they are very well adapted; for here are bred those fine oxen, in great numbers, which, by the drovers of *Somersetshire* and thereabouts, are brought up, and, in their flat feeding lands, betwixt *Bridgewater* and *Wells* (which I have seen almost covered with them), fattened fit for *Smithfield* market, whither they drive, and sell them to the *Londoners*, who have not better beef from any other part of the kingdom.

The northern parts of the county are of a quite different nature from the former; for these generally consist of a dry healthy soil, especially about *Ilford-comb*, and all along the brim of the forest of *Exmore*. Those downs are far from being a luxuriant feeding, but are good grazing for sheep; and being well dressed with lime (which is brought over hither by water from *Wales*), dung, sand, and other compost, manured by the indefatigable labour of the inhabitants, produce tolerable crops of corn. I say *tolerable*; for though they far exceed the productions in *Dorset*, *Wilts*, *Hants*, &c. (where sluggishness so far prevails, as to leave nature destitute of the least human assistance), the fertility is by no means comparable to that of the *eastern* and *middle* parts of the county; in the *former* of which a rich marl in some parts, and a fertile sandy soil in others, and in the *latter* a fat, strong soil of a deep red colour, intermixed with veins of different kinds of loam, produce great

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great crops of corn, and pease, of the best kind, not to be excelled in the whole island. Neither doth it fall behind in meadow-ground and pasturage, clover, and trefoil grass, and turnips; as is evident to a person who goes through any of the markets, and beholds the fine well-fed beef and mutton with which they are plentifully stored.

About *Tringmouth*, *Dartmouth*, *Totness*, *Modbury*, *Plymouth*, *Ashburton*, and all the south parts of the county (called the *South-Hams*), the lands are generally of a different kind from any of the former; in most places very good for arable and pasture, but especially for cyder-fruits*. A great part of this large tract lies on a *stratum* of marble, which the inhabitants break up, and burn into lime; and therewith dress their lands, to their very great improvement. Neither is this all the advantages they make of those quarries; for in many of them is found stone, which for its hardness, soundness, and beautiful veinings, rivals the best *Italian* marbles, and falls very little, if any thing, short of them in lustre. Great quantities of this stone are sent to *London*, and other places, where they are wrought up for the noblest purposes. At other places, on this south coast, are quarries of slates, for covering houses, and this likewise of the best kind; which are not only fetched away by land-carriage, to the distance of 10, 12, and 16 miles, but great quantities of them are sent coast-wise to all the towns on the *British* shore; and exported to *Holland*, *Flanders*, and other places beyond the sea.

The reader will not, by this description, conclude, that the lands in any part of the county are all one and the same kind. Downs, fens, rocks, and wood-

* The cyder of these parts, as well as of some others of this county, is, to speak in the words of Mr. *Brice*, "smart and sprightly, beautifully transparent, cordially exhilarating, and healthily potent."

grounds,

grounds, are interspersed among the best lands; as there are also some good arable and pasture amongst the most desolate and barren; and whoever looks round him, in his own situation, will know in what sense to take this general description *.

On the borders of *Dartmore*, about two miles from *Ilkington*, stand two very high rocks, called *Heytor-Rocks* (*i. e.* high-rocks); from whence is a very extensive view of *Torbay*, and the country for several miles round. At a little distance from the rocks, among an heap of large stones, was one about eight feet long, two broad, and three and a half thick, called the *Nut-cracker*, so equally poised, as to be moved up and down by the little finger only; but this is now thrown down.

In several places are found large quantities of very good oak-timber, as well as ash, elm, beech, &c. and such of it as grows in places whence it can be conveyed, either by land or water-carriage, to *Plymouth Dock*, are there served in for the use of his majesty's navy.

Coppice-wood is so very plenty, that although the woollen manufactures take off great quantities in charcoal, and yet greater quantities are expended in common firing (there being no coal raised in this county), yet the price is so low, that the lands, where it thrives well, will not generally produce more than five shillings per acre (*communibus annis*). The lands in *Devonshire*, save only the forest of *Dartmore*, *Halldon-hill*, and some heaths, moors, and coarse downs, of no very large extent (which, for the most part, are not capable of improvement, even

* A description and history of this county is now writing by, and printing for, Mr. *Coopie*, of *Exeter*, from whom, should he have health to complete it, may be expected a very particular account of the natural history, produce, customs, &c. of *Devonshire*: a work much wanted.

by *Devonshire* husbandry), are divided into small inclosures, and (in places where any shrubs will grow) by quickset-hedges, banked up four or five feet high with earth. And as the inclosures are small, so are the farms or tenements in these parts, even to a very manifest inconvenience. For the general method here is, for gentlemen to lease out the tenements of their manors for 99 years, determinable on three lives; taking fines for such leases, and reserving no more than about a shilling in the pound of the yearly value.

I should have mentioned, that in my way from *Chard* I passed through *Axminster*, a pretty considerable market-town, and the first in the county of *Devon*. The great western road to *London* goes through this town. Here my curiosity led me to go into the church, and view the monuments of the *Saxon* princes (or rather the bishop of *Sherburn*, and two dukes) who were slain at the battle of *Brunaburgh* in that neighbourhood, fought by king *Atelblane* with seven *Danish* princes; over whom he obtained the victory, in a field thence called *King's Field* to this day. The monuments of those *Saxon* worthies were under arches in the walls of the church, two of which have been lately filled up.

Here, in memory of the victory, king *Atelblane* founded a minster for seven priests, which in afterages were reduced to two; for whom a portion of land was allotted, called *Priest-aller*, which, with the parsonage, now belongs to two prebendaries of the church of *York*.

Ford-Abbey, in this neighbourhood, was heretofore a stately fabric, lofty, and very magnificent, adorned with curious carvings and embellishments of the Gothic kind, some of whose beauties still remain, as may be seen in a print by Mr. *Buck*, which will be the means of conveying some idea of them to posterity;

rity; who would otherwise be left totally unacquainted with this amazing fine stile of architecture, as the devouring hand of *Time* will undoubtedly destroy them, and it is not likely that any more such will ever be built.

Near Axminster lies Kilmington, quasi *Kill-men-town*, from the great slaughter there made at the battle before-mentioned; and Membury, i. e. *Maimburgh*, whither the maimed in that battle were sent to be relieved; now famous for the best *Devonshire* cheese.

The same road I was before in brought me from Axminster to Honiton.

This is a large and beautiful market-town, very populous and well-built; it returns two members to parliament, and is so very remarkably paved with small pebbles, that on both sides the way a little channel is left shouldered up; so that it holds a small stream of fine clear running water, with a little square dipping-place left at every door; by which means every family in the town has a clear clean-running rivulet (as it may be called) just at their own door. This was the condition of Honiton when I was last there; but it was since unhappily altered, by a sudden and dreadful fire, which broke out in the town on the 19th of July 1747, about three in the afternoon, and continued raging till four next morning; whereby near three quarters of the town were reduced to ashes, notwithstanding the conveniency of water which I have mentioned at each door; for the calamity was so sudden, and the flame so violent, augmented by a strong wind, that it extended itself several ways at once; to the utter ruin of many hundreds of the poor laborious inhabitants; such as weavers, combers, &c. very few being able to save any part of their household-furniture, or working-tools, their only means of subsistence; besides the great loss in woollen, linen, mercery, and other

other goods, to the amount of several thousand pounds.

This town is much employed in lace-making; and here we see the first of the ferge-manufacture of *Devonshire*; a trade too great to be described in miniature. It takes up this whole county, which is the largest and most populous in *England*, *Yorkshire* excepted; but *Devonshire* is so full of great towns, and those towns so full of people, and those people so universally employed in trade and manufactures, that it cannot be equalled in *England*.

Honiton stands in the best and pleasantest part of the whole county; and I cannot but recommend it to gentlemen who travel this road, that if they observe the prospect at *Honiton* for half a mile, till they come down the hill, and to the very entrance into *Honiton*, the view of the country is the most beautiful landscape in the world; and I do not remember the like in any one place in *England*. It is observable, that the market of this town was kept originally on the *Sunday*, till it was changed by direction of king *John*.

On the road from *Honiton* they have a beautiful prospect almost all the way to *Exeter*, which is 16 miles. A few miles from the first mentioned place, and on this road, is a seat belonging to sir *George Yonge*, bart. It is called *Escott*, is pleasantly situated, and has a good appearance.

On the left-hand of this road lies the town of *St. Mary Ottery*, so called, as some say, from the river *Otter*, and that from the otters formerly found in it. This town was given by king *Edward the Confessor* to the church of *St. Mary at Roan* in *Normandy*; but was afterwards bought by *Grandison*, bishop of *Exeter*; who made of it a quarter college in 10 *Edward III.* and therein placed secular priests, with other ministers, to whom he gave the whole manor,

manor, parish, tythes, fines, spiritual profits, &c. which amounted to 304*l.* 2*s.* 10*d.* yearly.

From hence we came to *Exeter*, the capital of the county of *Devon*, a city which hath often changed its name; for it was the *Pen Caer*, and *Caer-Eske* of the *Britons*; the *Auguſta* of the *Romans*; the *Iſea* of *Ptolemy*; the *Iſca-Damnoniorum* of *Antonine*; the *Exeſteſter* of the *Saxons*, which was afterwards abbreviated to *Exeſter* and *Exeter*. From the great number of Monks there, it had for some time the name of *Monkton*; but at length, from that large river which washes its walls, and bears the name of *Ex*, it retains that of *Exeter*. It was first fortified with a stone wall (which still remains intire) by king *Athelſtane*; and was for some time the seat of the *West Saxon* kings.

That the *Romans* were here is highly probable, among other proofs, from their coins, that have been dug up at divers places; in particular, a gold one of *Nero*, at *Exeter*; one of *Theodosius*, near *Barnſtaple*; several silver ones of *Severus*, and other emperors; but especially from a great quantity of them dug up about 40 years ſince at *Exeter*, within the close, together with the urn in which they were buried. I ſaw a great number of thofe, ſome of which were of silver; but the greatest part of them were a mixture of tin and copper. They had the impression of *Gordianus*, *Philippus*, and other emperors.

King *Athelſtane* founded here a monastery to *St. Mary* and *St. Peter*, for Monks of the order of *St. Benedict*. The chapel of *St. Mary*, now fitted up for a library, and furnished with a pretty large number of books (which formerly were arranged in a confused, but are now placed in proper order), is the very eastermost part of the cathedral, and was, doubtleſs, the firſt beginning of that now handsome fabric. King *Etheſtreda* founded also, within the close,

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close, an house for Monks, and another for Nuns. Divers other religious houses, as the priories of *St. James*, *St. Nicholas*, *St. John Baptist*, the *Grey Friars*, &c. were the work of after-ages.

The walls are in tolerable repair, and make a walk round the city, with the pleasure of seeing a fine country on opposite hills, full of wood, rich ground, orchards, villages, and gentlemen's houses. Among these may be reckoned, *Mount Radford*, the fine seat of *John Baring*, esq. *Cleave*, a good seat belonging to the family of *Northmore*; *Wear*, an handsome seat of *William Spier*, esq. *The Retreat*, a pleasant seat of — *Orme*, esq; together with several others. This place has one very long street, called *High Street*, broad and straight. The houses are spacious, commodious, and not inelegant. This street is full of shops well furnished, and all sorts of trades look brisk. The people are industrious and courteous; the fair sex here are truly fair, as well as numerous; their complexion, and generally their hair, of a fair cast; they are genteel, of easy carriage, and good mien.

There has been of late a vast increase of buildings within and without the city. The very situation renders it clean, dry, and airy. The soil thither from *Honiton* is rather sandy than stony. In Dr. *Musgrave's* garden, an head of the empress *Julia Domna*, of a Colossean size, was dug up. The head-dress is suitable to those times; and neither the manner nor carving are despicable, though the graver has not done it justice. It is the noblest relique of British antiquity which we know of this sort; it is 21 inches from the top of the attire to the chin, and belonged to a statue of 12 feet proportion, originally set upon some temple or palace. There is also an inscription of *Camillus*.

This

This county remarkably abounds with persons afflicted with the gout; which is attributed to the custom of dressing the lands with lime, and the great use of cyder, especially among the meaner people. In the northern angles, and highest ground of this city, stands *Rougemont Castle*, once the residence of the *West Saxon* monarchs, afterwards of the duke of *Cornwall*, and others. It is of a roundish figure, contains a new, large, and noble assize-house for the county of *Devon*, and a chapel built by the counts of *Devon* in 1270, which is surrounded (except where it has been opened for the above house) by a high wall, and formerly had a deep ditch, now filled up, with a rampire of earth parallel to the top of the wall, forming a terrace, part of which is still remaining. The wall, overlooking the city and country around, affords a delightful prospect, and from the north tower thereof the view is unrivaled.

The bridge over the *Exe* is new and handsome, of considerable length, and will, when finished, have cost 18 or 20,000*l.* In the Guildhall are the pictures of king *George II.* of general *Monk*, of the princess *Henrietta Maria*, youngest daughter of *Charles I.* who was born here: as also those of lord *Camden*, *John Tuckfield*, esq; and of *John Heath*, esq; lately recorder of this city, a man greatly esteemed for his merit and abilities.

The bishop's see of this western diocese hath had several removes; for it was first at *Bodmin* for the county of *Cornwall*, and since that at *Taunton* for this county. Afterwards both were joined, and placed at *Crediton*. And lastly, about the year 1049, king *Edward the Confessor*, and his queen *Edyth*, in thronged *Leofricus* (who had been three years bishop of *Crediton*) into the see of *Exeter*, in the following very solemn manner:

On

On the south-side of the high altar, in the cathedral, were erected (and are there still to be seen perfect as when first made) three seats, or alcoves, adorned with Gothic carvings, to the height of about 25 feet, which are supported with brafs pillars; in the middle of these was the bishop installed by the king and queen. The form of words thus:

*I kyng Edward, taking Leofricke bye the ryghte
baunde, and Edythe my queen bye the lefte, doe installe
 hym the fyrste and most famous Bysschoppe of Exon, wythe
 a grate defyre of abundance of Bleffynges to all such as
 shall furder and encrease the same; but wythe a fearfuſ
 and execrable curse on all such as ſhall diminifh or take
 anye thyng from it.*

The church may be said to have been near 400 years in building. Its foundation is by some said to have been first laid by king Athelston in 932. *Leofric* carried on the edifice. *William Warlewift*, however, is generally supposed to have laid the foundation of the present choir in 1112; but, if the three stalls before mentioned were used at the instalment of *Leofric*, as above, it must have been at least partly built sixty years before. Bishop *Cbicheſter*, installed 1128, according to some, may be supposed to have finished the choir. *John the Precentor* made additions, which *Henry Marshall*, his successor, finished. *Peter Quivel*, in 1284, began the nave of the church. In about 1340, bishop *Grandison* began the two last arches in the west end, and finished it so far as to cover the whole roof in 1369. Bishop *Brentingham* and others made additions; and *Peter Courtenay*, then bishop of *Exeter*, afterwards of *Winchester*, completed the north tower in 1485, and very remarkable it is to see the uniformity with which it was carried

on; for nobody can discover the least incongruity in the parts; so much is it like the workmanship of one and the same architect.

A noble painted window, the joint contribution of the nobility, gentry, and clergy, of the diocese, has lately been put up at the west end of the church, and does great honour to the taste and execution of that ingenious artist. Mr. Picket, of York, the stainer and painter. The east window also is of painted glass, and is, as well as many others in this church, worthy of notice.

In one of the towers of this magnificent piece of antiquity, is a very large bell of 12,500 pounds weight, which is 2500 pounds weight more than *Tom of Lincoln*; and in the other, the largest ring of (ten) bells in the kingdom. An organ of very good workmanship, and supported by a trestle of beautiful Gothic columns, stands where the before-mentioned partition wall did. The largest pipes in this instrument are of a great length, and 15 inches in diameter; which is said to be two inches more than those at *Ulm*, which is so famed for its largeness.

The well-finished alcove of wooden work for the bishop, and the pulpit, and pews of the like, in the nave or body of the church, together with the neat marble font, and the fine suit of gilt plate for the communion-service, are all that I shall further add about the grave and well-adapted ornaments and furniture of this church.

To complete this description with a circumstance which, I think, ought by no means to be passed over: the solemnity, decency, and affecting harmony, with which the service, and music, vocal and instrumental, is generally performed, by the choral vicars, organists, and choristers; and (which is well worthy of imitation) the numerous congregation, which, winter and summer, attend the daily prayers at six in

the morning ; and their grave and pious behaviour there ; I say, all this together, renders this cathedral a glory to the diocese, the envy of other choirs, and the admiration of strangers. In the *Cloſe*, in which this church is situated, is a space of great area, enclosed with rails and posts, and planted with rows of trees ; around which area are many handsome houses, and within the rails many agreeable public walks.

The late reverend Dr. *Allured Clarke*, who was promoted to the deanry of this church, anno 1740, was a great benefactor to it, and, we may say, to the city and county, and, in them, to the kingdom, in the hospital he was the great encourager of, which is called *The Devon and Exeter Hospital*, set up on the model of the public infirmaries in *London* and *Westminster* ; one of the most laudable charities that ever was set on foot.

His first work was to alter and repair the deanry-house ; which his predecessors had neglected ; and this he completed within the first nine months of his instalment, at the expence of about 800*l.*

Before this was perfected, viz. in the spring of 1741, he drew up and published the proposal for founding the hospital abovesaid, for lodging, dieting, and curing, the sick and lame poor of the county and city ; all ranks and parties of men fell into the laudable design.

Besides the ancient buildings of a public nature, in the city of *Exeter*, there are the chapter-house, and cloisters ; the bishop's palace, the houses belonging to the dean, the chancellor, treasurer, and other dignitaries of the church ; the *Guildhall*, the walls, and gates of the city, with those of the castle, and the cloie ; the hospital of *St. Jhn the Baptist*, 19 parish-churches within the city and liberties thereof, the bridge over the river *Ex*, to which may be added,

added, some chapels and alms-houses, yet standing, and the ruins of divers others; which are monuments of the piety of their founders, and the impiety of those who neglect them.

Modern buildings of a public nature in this city are, the castle, the bridge, the custom-house, and the hospital; besides which are a workhouse for the poor, which is spacious, pleasant, and well contrived; a large and well-built new meeting-house belonging to the Presbyterians; the elegant building called *Bedford Circus*; the mayoralty-house, and several houses belonging to the dignitaries of the cathedral church.

This city returns two members to parliament: its civil government is by a mayor, aldermen, and common-council; a recorder, sheriff, four bailiffs, a chamberlain, and town-clerk, who are attended by a sword-bearer, who wears the cap, and carries the sword given by Henry VII. before them to church, and on all public processions; four serjeants at mace, and as many staff-bearers; the former in gowns, and the latter in liveries, with badges; and, which adds not a little to their splendour, they keep a band of four musicians in constant pay.

There are, moreover, 13 companies of incorporated trades, who, on public occasions, and on gaudy-days, walk in the mayor's train, dressed in gowns, each company having a beadle in a laced cloak, bearing the ensigns of their several professions, to usher them. The inhabitants are well supplied with water.

The river *Ex* was heretofore, in its main stream, navigable to the walls of the city; but, on a difference between the mayor, and the then earl of Devon, *Hugh Courtenay*, on a very trifling occasion, viz. which of their purveyors should be first served with a pot of fish in the market, that earl revenged him-

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self by choaking the mouth of the river, and by making weirs with timber, sand, &c. thereby intirely ruining the navigation thereof farther up than *Topsham*. And so great were the power and obstinacy of the earl at that time, that, though the citizens obtained a decree in equity for their relief, it was never executed.

To remove this inconvenience, the inhabitants, about 70 years since, by aid of an act of parliament, at a great expence, perfected a work, which had been begun about 100 years before. They cut a new channel for the water, cross which they placed sluices, or flood-gates; through the lowermost of those gates, they let in the flowing tide, the ebb of which immediately shuts the gate, and that keeps up a body of water for about two miles, sufficient to carry up the vessels so far in their way; at which place another of those gates shuts, after the vessel is past it, by capsterns there fixed for that purpose. It must be considered, that the floor of the dyke is thus far on a level, and consequently the water of an equal depth, without the inconvenience of any current, the lower sluice being shut as before.

The whole declivity, from the quay at *Exeter* to the lowermost floodgate at *Topsham*, which gives the river its current, is about eight or ten feet, all which is sunk at once here, above this second sluice; and therefore, in order to bring up ships over this fall, it was necessary, that a third flood-gate should be added; which is accordingly done at about 200 feet from the former. And now, the ship being between these two flood-gates (the lower being kept shut), the uppermost of the two is opened, and by this means the water between them raised to a level with that of the remainder of the dyke above; and the ship, by this contrivance, floats freely over the sailing ground; and thence on the fresh water (for

the tide is of no farther use) for about two miles more, which brings her to the head of the works, (which has sometimes a very grand and picturesque appearance in the fall), where is another flood-gate; and this ponds the whole river, so as to throw the wauste water, over a strong stone weir, into its natural channel. The water, so kept back by this upper sluice, and the weir, makes a stagnant pool above; and here the vessels lie at their moorings, and unload at a large quay, (adjoining to the city), whereon is an handsome and exceedingly well situated custom-house, as well as other public offices.

Above this quay, is a rising high tenter-ground, called *The Friers*, open to the south and west, on which is a fine terrace walk. The prospect from this ground is both beautiful and extensive.

Beyond this, and three miles lower on the river *Ex*, is *Topsham*, a very pleasant, large, and well-built town. It has a very good quay, which is washed by the tide, and on which there is a fine prospect. Vessels too large for going through the haven to *Exeter*, load and unload here. The road between this town and *Exeter* is remarkably pleasant, and many gentlemens seats adjoin thereto.

Near the mouth of the river *Ex*, on the west banks thereof, is *Powderham* castle, now, and for many ages past, the seat of a family of *Courtenays*, descendants from the earls of *Devon* of that name; the present possessor being the right honourable viscount *Courtenay*. This seat, built in the manner of a castle, was the work of *Isabel*, the daughter of *Baldwin de Rivers*, and widow of *William de Fortibus*, in the reign of king *Henry III.*.

Halldown is a pretty large, dry, healthy common, of about seven miles in length, and about three in breadth, which, though in itself a very flinty barren soil, yet is its situation so delightful from its height,

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the open prospect both by sea and land so engaging, and the whole circuit thereof so adapted to rural recreations, that the like number of gentlemens seats, as lie round the skirts thereof, within so little compass of ground, is not to be met with at any place that I know of, except about *London*. Among those seats may be reckoned *Mamhead*, a fine one belonging to lord *Lisburn*, which commands an extensive prospect, and has fine plantations adjoining; *Halldon House*, the very handsome seat of *Robert Palk*, esq. built on the plan of the *Queen's Palace*; *Whiteway*, an handsome seat belonging to *Montague Parker*, esq. *Ugbrook*, a fine seat of lord *Clifford's*, &c. On this common the annual races are run; and underneath it, in the road to *Plymouth*, is *Chudleigh*, a market town of some note.

Exeter is particularly famous for two things; which we seldom find united in the same town; viz. That it is full of gentry, and yet full of trade and manufactures. It is likewise celebrated for having stood several sieges, and one successfully against the insurgents in the time of *Katt's* rebellion in *Norfolk*, when the behaviour of the *Exonians* was extolled at the expence of the townsmen of *Norwich*.

The serge-market, held here every week, is very well worth a stranger's seeing; and, next to the *Brigg* market at *Leeds* in *Yorkshire*, is the greatest in *England*. The exports of this city are estimated at upwards of 1,000,000*l.* annually.

The *Ex*, or *Esk*, is a very considerable river, and the principal in the whole county; and, by the contrivance we have mentioned, ships of 150 tons now come up to the city.

Exeter drives a very great correspondence and trade with *Holland* and *Germany*; as also directly to *Portugal*, *Spain*, and *Italy*; shipping off vast quantities of their woollen manufactures; which are made not

only in and about *Exeter*, but at *Crediton*, *Honiton*, *Culliton*, *St. Mary Ottery*, *Newton-bushel*, *Ashburton*, *Tiverton*, *Cullumpton*, *Bampton*, and almost every part of the county.

On the north side of the castle, upon the ground called *Northernhay*, are several beautiful public walks, one of which extends almost round one fourth part of the city, and is partly on the summit of a precipice or mound of great steepness. Here are groves and rows of trees so planted as to make some of these walks agreeable in every season of the year. The assize-house has an handsome back front, facing nearly the centre of this pleasure-ground. The chamber, to whom *Northernhay* belongs, have spared no expence in improving it, and have given the whole such a beautiful and diversified appearance, as is not to be found, in greater perfection, in any part of the kingdom.

About eight miles north of this city, and in a very fertile part of *Devonshire*, is *Crediton*, above-mentioned, one of the largest and most antient towns in this county. It is a place of great note for the manufactory of serges, and sends weekly to *Exeter* at least 14 or 1500. In 1743, a fire consumed upwards of 460 dwelling-houses in this town; another fire also happened here a few years since, which destroyed a great number of houses. At each time the loss was very considerable, and the distresses very great.

Near this town is *Creedy*, an handsome seat of sir *John Davie*, bart. *Little Tuxford*, a fine seat of *Henry Tuckfield*, esq; *Downs*, a seat of the late *John Buller*, esq; and some others.

But I shall take the northern part of this county in my return from *Cornwall*, and must now lean to the south-coast; for, in going on, we in reality go south-west.

About

About 23 miles from *Exeter*, and through *Newton-bushel*, a large market town, we go into the ancient town of *Totness*, on the river *Dart*. It was formerly of great note, and still is a pretty good town, and has some trade; but has more gentlemen in it than tradesmen of note. They have a fine stone bridge here over the river; which, being within seven or eight miles of the sea, is large, and the tide flows 10 or 12 feet at the bridge. Here we had the diversion of seeing them catch fish, with the assistance of a dog; in this manner: on the south-side of the river, and on a slip, or narrow cut or channel, made on purpose, stands a corn-mill; the mill-tail, or floor for the water below the wheels, is wharfed up on either side with stone, above high-water mark, and for above 20 or 30 feet in length below it, on that part of the river toward the sea. At the end of this wharfing is a grating of wood, the cross-bars of which stand bearing inward, sharp at the end, and pointing towards one another, as the wires of a mouse-trap.

When the tide flows up, the fish can with ease go in between the points of these cross-bars; but, the mill being shut down, they can go no farther upwards; and, when the water ebbs again, are left behind, not being able to pass the points of the grating, which, like a wire mouse-trap, keeps them in; so that they are left at the bottom with about a foot, or a foot and a half water. We were carried hither at low-water, where we saw about 50 or 60 small salmon, from 17 to 20 inches long, which the country-people called *Salmon Peal*; and to catch these, they throw in a net on an hoop, at the end of a pole, the pole going cross the hoop, which, in some places, they call a shove-net. The net being fixed at one end of the place, they put in a dog (which is taught his trade beforehand) at the other end, and

he drives all the fish into the net; so that only holding the net still in its place, the man took up two or three and-thirty salmon peal at the first time.

Of these we had six for our dinner, for which they ask'd a shilling only; but, for such sized fish, and not so fresh, I have seen 6 s. 6 d. each given at a *London* fish-market, whither they are sometimes brought from *Chichester* by land-carriage. They have also delicate trouts here.

This excessive plenty of good fish (other provisions being cheap in proportion) makes the town of *Totness* a very good place to live in; especially for such as have large families, and but small estates; and many such are said to come into those parts on purpose for saving money. *Totness* is a borough by prescription, and the most antient in the county; it being incorporated by king *John*, with a mayor, 14 burgh-masters, a recorder, &c. &c. It was formerly walled in, and had four gates, but only the south-gate and some parts of the rest are now remaining. Here is a spacious church, with a fine tower and four pinnacles, each above 90 feet high, a town-hall, and a school-house.

About ten miles north of *Totness* lies *Ashburton*, a good market-town, and thoroughfare from *Exeter* to *Plymouth*; it sends two members to parliament. This is one of the four Stannary towns for the county of *Devon*, and lies eight or ten miles from the forest of *Dartmore*. This is also an ancient borough by prescription, and is governed by a portreeve, chosen yearly, who is the returning officer. It has an handsome church, in form of a cathedral, with a tower 91 feet high, and a spire of lead. The principal trade of this town, and indeed of many of the towns and villages in the county, is in the woollen manufacture.

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The three other Stannary towns are, *Tavistock*, *Plympton*, and *Chagford*, the last of which is a very poor inconsiderable place; both *Tavistock* and *Plympton* send members to parliament. *Plympton* is much decayed, but is still a corporation town, and has one very good inn, and several other good houses. The increase of *Plymouth* has caused the decay of this place. It was incorporated by queen *Elizabeth*, under a mayor, recorder, eight aldermen, &c. It has the best free-schoal in the county, being endowed with lands to the amount of 100*l.* a year, and built on stone pillars in 1664, by sir *John Maynard*, one of the trustees of *Elizeus Hele*, of *Cornwood*, esq; who gave 1500*l.* a year to such uses.

And now, having mentioned this court of Stannary, it may not be improper to give a further description of it.

By divers charters granted to the tanners by king *Edward I.* &c. the court is to be held at *Crockern-Torr*, a noted hill and rock in the middle of the forest, far distant from any house; the lord warden of the stannaries is the judge of this court, on whose summons the jurors appear, who are generally gentlemen within the jurisdiction. I had my information from a gentleman, who, if I mistake not, told me, he had served as juror; and that, when the earl of *Bath* was lord *Warden*, and held a court there, he was attended by 300 gentlemen well mounted.

At this desolate place (where no refreshment is to be had, but what the company bring with them, no shelter from the weather, nor any thing to sit upon, but moor-stones) the court is called; but then the next act of the steward is to adjourn to one of the stannary towns (usually *Tavistock*), and the company immediately make the best of their way thither.

At this court, in former times, when the tin-mines in this county were in a flourishing state, a great deal of business was dispatched; the price of the tin was fixed, differences in relation to the works adjusted, and acts made for regulation of every thing relating thereto. Several presentments of the jurors are printed; and this meeting is usually called, *The Parliament for the Stannaries*; the place of meeting in the forest, *The Parliament-house*; and the presentment of the jurors, *Acts of Parliament*.

The discontinuing the court here is complained of, as the regulations necessary to be made in it would, it is imagined, be of some consequence.

At Lydford, now an obscure village, (though formerly of some note, and a walled town) near the Moor, is the prison, where parties offending against their statutes were usually put: but this, which is a dark deep dungeon, is now (at least it was a few years since) almost filled up with rubbish. Offenders are detained in this dismal hole for a month, and sometimes even a year, which being deemed as bad as death itself seems to have given rise to a saying here, that *it is Lydford law, to execute the criminal first, and try him afterwards.*

At this place is a bridge over the river *Lyd*, nearly level with the road; the water underneath, running through the rock in a channel nearly 70 feet deep, can hardly be seen. The appearance of this place is somewhat frightful.

About a quarter of a mile from hence, a rivulet, which runs into the river *Lyd*, forms a very remarkable cataract, by a fall of 245 feet over a steep rock. The slope of this rock, for the first 95 feet from the head, makes an angle with the horizon of 45 degrees, and then projecting a very little, the remainder runs 150 feet, in a direction which makes an angle with the perpendicular considerably less than

than 45 degrees; so that the perpendicular of this cascade is 200 feet at least. This wonderful fall of water fills the air all around the bottom with such an atmosphere of aqueous particles, and puts the air into such violent agitations, that you can scarcely bear to stand near the place. Travellers allow this fall to be equal at least to any one met with abroad.

At *Monaton*, a parish of this county, is another water-fall of considerable height, and which has a very fine appearance.

From *Totness* we went still south about seven miles (all in view of the river) to *Dartmouth*, a town of note, seated at the mouth of the river *Dart*, where it empires itself into the sea, at a very narrow, but safe entrance. The opening into *Dartmouth* harbour is not broad, but the channel deep enough for the largest ship in the royal navy; the sides of the entrance are high, mounded with rocks; without which, just at the first narrowing of the passage, stands a good strong fort beyond a platform of guns, which commands the port.

The narrow entrance is not much above half a mile; and then it opens, and makes a basin, or harbour, able to receive 500 * sail of ships, where they may ride with the greatest safety; and the entrance may be chained up on occasion. I went out in a boat to view this entrance, and the castle, or fort, that commands it; and, coming back with the tide of flood, I observed some small fish to skip and play upon the surface of the water; upon which I asked, What fish they were? Immediately one of the rowers or seamen started up in the boat, and throwing his arms abroad, as if he had been mad, cried

* This number, although it has the sanction of many authors, is perhaps too great.

out as loud as he could bawl, *A Scool! A Scool!* The word was taken on the shore as hastily as it would have been on land if he had cried fire; and, by that time we reached the quays, the town was all in an uproar.

The matter was, that a great *Shoal*, or, as they call it, a *scool* of pilchards came swimming with the tide directly out of the sea into the harbour. The boat-owner lamented his being unprepared for them; for he said, that if he could but have had a day or two's warning, he might have taken 200 ton of them; in short, nobody was ready for them, except a small fishing-boat or two; one of which went into the middle of the harbour, and, at two or three haws, took about 40,000.

It was observed, that beyond the mouth of the harbour was a whole army of porpoises; which, it seems, pursued these pilchards, and, it is probable, drove them into the harbour. The *School* drove up the river as high as *Tatness* bridge, as we heard afterwards; so that the country-people, who had boats and nets, caught as many as they knew what to do with.

Dartmouth returns two members to parliament, and is governed by a mayor, 12 masters, or magistrates, 12 common-councilmen, a recorder, &c. Here are three churches, beside a large dissenting meeting-house, but the mother church is at a village called *Townstall*, about three quarters of a mile from *Dartmouth*. This church stands on an hill, and the tower of it, which is 69 feet high, is a sea-mark. By a grant of *Edward III.* the burgesses of this town are toll-free throughout all *England*; and in the reign of *Richard II.* they obtained the exclusive right of exporting tin. The town is situated on the west-side of the basin, or harbour, in a kind of semicircle, on the ascent of a steep hill; and is large and populous,

* Notable
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pulous, the quay is of good extent, and the street before it spacious. Here live some very flourishing merchants, who trade very prosperously, and to the most considerable trading ports in *Spain*, *Portugal*, *Italy*, and the plantations; but especially to *Newfoundland*, and from thence to *Spain* and *Italy*, with fish. They drive a good trade also in their own fishery of pilchards, which is hereabouts carried on with the greatest number of vessels of any port in the west, except *Falmouth*.

The French burnt *Dartmouth* in *Richard I's* time, and attempted it afterwards; but were bravely repulsed, and chiefly by the women, who fought desperately, and took Monsieur *Castel* their general, three lords, and 23 knights, prisoners, and made a great slaughter among them besides; but how this glorious action fell to the share of the women, and whether the men were inactive or absent, is not mentioned.

A little to the northward of this town, and to the east of the port, is *Torbay*, a very good road for ships, about 12 miles in circuit, though sometimes (especially with a southerly or south-east wind) ships have been obliged to quit the bay, and put out to sea, or run into *Dartmouth* for shelter.

In the bottom of this bay is a beautiful, well-built, and finely-situated house, called *Torr Abbey*, formerly a religious house. And here it was that king *William III.* entered with a fleet of near 400 transports, and 50 sail of men of war, besides frigates, under the conduct of admiral *Herbert*, afterwards lord *Torrington**.

About

* Not far from this bay, and in the parish of *Tor*, is a very remarkable place, called *Kent's Hole*, not mentioned, as I can find, by the writers on this county, though perhaps the greatest natural curiosity therein. It consists of many caverns, into which you are led by following subterraneous passages; but it has only one outward entrance to

About three miles to the west of *Dartmouth* is a little fishing town, called *Brixham*, remarkable for a spring of water, that ebbs and flows very sensibly.

From *Dartmouth* we went to *Plympton*, mentioned before, formerly of great account, and the glory of the antient earls of *Devon*; where are tenures at this day, called *Castle-guard*, for defending and repairing the walls of the castle; which, however, is now in ruins. From thence the road lies to *Plymouth*, distance about six miles.

Between these towns is *Saltram*, an elegant seat of *John Parker*, esq; and near *Plymouth* is *Goodamore*, a fine seat of the present commissioner of the dock-yard. There are also in these parts several other fine seats.

Plymouth is indeed a town of consideration and importance. The situation of it is between two very large inlets of the sea, and in the bottom of a large sound, or bay, which is encompassed on every side with hills, and the shore generally steep and rocky; though the anchorage is good, and it is pretty safe riding. In the entrance to this bay lies a large and most dangerous rock, which at high-water is covered, but at low-tide lies bare, where many a good ship has been lost, when they have thought all their dangers at an end.

Upon the rock, which was called the *Eddystone*, from its situation, the ingenious Mr. *Winstanley*, whom I mentioned before, undertook to build a lighthouse for the direction of sailors; and with great art and expedition finished it; which work, considering its height, the magnitude of its building, and the

the whole. Some of these caverns are very large, and through one of them runs a rivulet of water. The distance from the outward entrance to this rivulet is three or four hundred feet, and beyond this there are still more passages and caverns.

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little hold there was to fasten it to the rock, stood to admiration, and bore out many a bitter storm.

Mr. *Winstanley* often visited, and frequently strengthened the building by new works; and was so confident of its firmness and stability, that he usually said to those who doubted its standing in hard weather, that he only desired to be in it, when a storm should happen.

But, in the dreadful tempest of *November 27, 1703*, when he happened to be so unfortunate as to have his wish, he would fain have been on shore, making signals for help; but no boats durst go off to him; and, in the morning after the storm, nothing was to be seen but the bare rock, the light house being gone, in which Mr. *Winstanley*, and all that were with him, perished; and a few days after, a merchant's ship, called the *Winchelsea*, homeward-bound from *Virginia*, not knowing the light-house was down, ran foul of the rock, and was lost with all her lading, and most of her men. There was another light-house built on the same rock by the corporation of *Trinity-house*; in pursuance of an act of parliament passed in the fifth of queen *Anne*. But *December 2, 1755*, this took fire, and all the timber-work was burnt; but the stone work, 30 feet high, and founded on the rock, remained unhurt. Admiral *West*, at *Plymouth*, seeing the fire, sent out a boat, and brought off the two men who had the care of the place.

The re-edification of this useful work has been since executed under the direction of Mr. *John Smeaton*, F. R. S. It is all of stone, the lowest course being morticed into the rock, and is thought by the best judges to be the completest performance of its kind in *Europe*.

As *Plymouth* lies in the bottom of this *Sound*, in the centre between the two waters, so there lies against it, in the same position, an island, which they call

St.

St. Nicholas; on which is a castle that commands the entrance into *Ham-ouze*, and indeed that also into *Catwater* in some sort. On the shore, over against this island, is the citadel of *Plymouth*, a small, but regular fortification, inaccessible by sea, but not exceedingly strong by land; except that they say the works are of a stone as hard as marble, and would not soon yield to the batteries of an enemy; but that is a language our modern engineers laugh at. It is surrounded with a deep trench, out of which was dug the stone that built the whole citadel, which is about three quarters of a mile in circumference, and has 300 great guns on its walls, which stand thickest towards the sea. Several guns are also planted on part of the old fort, lying almost level with the water; all which gives the greatest security to the ships in the harbour.

The town returns two members to parliament. It stands above the citadel, upon the same rock, and lies sloping on the side of it, towards the east, the inlet of the sea (which is called *Catwater*, and is an harbour capable of receiving any number of ships, and of any size) washing the eastern shore of the town, where they have a kind of natural mole, or haven, called *Sutton Pool*, from the ancient name of the town, with a quay, and all other conveniences for bringing in vessels for loading and unloading; nor is the trade carried on here inconsiderable in itself.

The other inlet of the sea, as I term it, is on the other side of the town, and is called *Ham-ouze*, being the mouth of the river *Tamar*, a considerable river, which parts the two counties of *Devon* and *Cornwall*. Here, the war with *France* making it necessary that the ships of war should have a retreat nearer land than at *Portsmouth*, the late king *William* ordered a wet dock, with yards, dry docks, launches, and

and conveniences of all kinds for building and repairing of ships, to be built. These wet and dry-docks are about two miles up the *Ham-ouze*, and as many from *Plymouth*; and, for the neatness and excellency of the work, exceed all that were ever built of the kind, being hewn out of a mine of slate, and lined with *Portland* stone. The dry-dock is built after the mould of a first-rate man of war; and the wet dock will contain five of the same bigness. What followed these, as it were of course, was the building of store-houses and ware-houses for the rigging, sails, &c. of such ships as may be appointed to be laid up there; with very handsome houses for the commissioner, clerks, and officers of all kinds usual in the king's yards, to dwell in.

Adjoining the yard is also a gun wharf, where all the cannon belonging to the men of war, lying in the *Sound* in the time of peace, are laid up. This wharf is remarkable for being hewn out of, and contained within, a solid rock. It contains an arsenal and magazines, in which are generally kept a large quantity of arms and stores, in like order, though not in so great a quantity, as those in the *Tower of London*. It has also, within the walls, houses for the officers belonging to his majesty's stores within this place. Here are likewise spacious and very commodious barracks for the soldiers, who lie here, and consist of a number of squares well supplied with water, which, in all the rest of the town, is so very scarce, that the inhabitants are obliged to purchase it almost at the price small-beer is sold at in other parts of the kingdom. This place is, in short, now become as complete an arsenal, and yard, for building and fitting out men of war, as any the government are masters of; and perhaps much more convenient than some of them, though not so large: and this has occasioned a proportional increase of building

building to the town, which is now become a very considerable, well-built, and large place, and has the name of *Plymouth Dock*, but generally *Dock* only.

Plymouth, during the last civil war, adhered to the parliament, and, by an obstinate resistance, did more harm to the royal cause, than any other town of the west; the king's army being obliged to raise the siege, after lying before the place many months. King *Charles II.* well knowing its importance, built the fort before described, on the brow of the hill, at the end of the *Haw*, which at once awes the town, and is a defence to the harbour. The town is governed by a mayor and recorder, who are justices of the peace and *quorum*, 12 magistrates, three of whom are justices, and 24 common-councilmen.

Here are two fine churches, and two or three meeting-houses for dissenters, and *French* refugees; as also a free-school, an hospital for blue-coat boys, and a royal hospital for sick and wounded seamen, not far from the town, and is a noble building.

Opposite to this place, on the other side *Ham-Ouze*, is situated *Mount Edgcumbe*, the seat of the lord *Edgcumbe*, deemed one of the noblest prospects in *England*; overlooking at once the sea, the harbour, citadel, and town of *Plymouth*, and the county adjacent for a great way. At the same time it possesses, within its own domain, all the beauties of the most inland situation. In the park myrtles grow naturally, and the fine woods flourish in strength and verdure to the very brink of the ocean.

Between *Mount Edgcumbe* and *Plymouth* are erected two baths, and near them an elegant building for a breakfasting or assembly room, called the *Long Room*, to accommodate the gentry who resort there. On the top of a neighbouring hill is a bowling-green, which commands a view equal to that at *Mount Edgecumbe*; and at *Stonehouse*, between *Plymouth* and the *Dock*,

Dock, is lately built a handsome bridge over the river Plym.

The land declining when we leave the coast of *Devonshire* to the south-west, the first place we meet with on the *Cornish* shore, is *Bude-haven*, on the north coast, in all the old maps called *Beeds-haven*; now not so much as a creek in the custom-house account, and barely so in conception of the common people, who sometimes shelter their boats there. It was, in ages past, no doubt, a much more useful place; but as in many other parts of *Cornwall* the sea has encroached upon the land, so here that element has been driven out, as plainly appears from the marshy grounds through which the river *Bude* runs, below *Whaleborough*; which marsh was evidently the old haven. It might not perhaps be found a thing impracticable, by cutting a canal from the *Tamar* to the place last mentioned, to bring such a body of water into this diminished river, as would once more effectually scour this haven, which would prove of inexpressible importance to the county, though the gaining it should be attended with large expences. For this being once done, the little river *Attery*, and the brook which falls into it, upon which *Launceston* is seated, being also made navigable to the *Tamar*, that capital of the county, which even now is a spacious and populous, though an inland place, would have a direct and commodious correspondence, both with the north and south seas, or, in other words, both with the *Bristol* and *British* channels; whereas at present it has no communication with either. *Boscastle*, corruptly for *Betreaux-Castle*, is the next creek, and of no greater significance than the former. We may say the same of *Portscick*, the creek that runs up to *Carantack*, and several others; none of which serve for any thing more considerable than fishing-

fishing-boats ; owing all to the same causes, the sands filling them up, and the soil choaking the ruts that run into them, so that they are gradually (though not irreparably) diminished in size and strength. But as these were all once naturally better, so by the assistance of art, and with a moderate charge, there is surely scarce any of them that may not be made harbours again.

Saltash seems to be the ruins of a larger p'ace : it is governed by a mayor and aldermen, has many privileges, sends members to parliament, has the sole oyster-fishing in the whole river, which is considerable. It has also jurisdiction upon the river *Tamar*, down to the mouth of the port ; so that they claim anchorage of all small ships that enter the river. Their coroner sits upon all bodies that are found drowned in the river. Here is a good market ; and it is very much benefited by the increase of the inhabitants of *Plymouth*, as lying near the dock at the mouth of the *Ham-ouze* ; for those people choose rather to go to *Saltash* to market by water, than to walk to *Plymouth* by land, for their provisions ; because, first, as they go in the town-boat, the same boat brings home what they buy ; so that it is much less trouble : secondly, because provisions are bought much cheaper at *Saltash* than at *Plymouth* : and of late they have some ships that use the *Newfoundland* fishery.

There is no other town upon the *Tamar* till we come to *Launceston*, the county-town, which I shall take in my return, except *Killington*, a pretty good market and portreeve town, where is a good market-house, and a neat church, which, as well as the other buildings in the town, are in good condition ; and which sends members to parliament ; so I turned west, keeping the south shore of the county, to the *Lana's End*.

From

From *Saltaſh* I went to *Leskard*, about seven miles. This is a considerable town, well-built, has people of fashion in it, and a great market: it is one of the five stannary-towns for *Cornwall*; and was once still more eminent, and had a good castle, and a large house, where the ancient dukes of *Cornwall* kept their court: it also enjoyed several considerab'e privileges, especially by the favour of the *Black Prince*, who, as prince of *Wales* and duke of *Cornwall*, resided here; and in return, they say, this town, and the country round it, raised a great body of stout young fellows, who entered into his service, and followed his fortunes in his wars. But these buildings are so decayed, that there are now scarce any of the ruins of the castle, or of the prince's court, remaining. Here was also anciently a chapel, much resort'd to by pilgrims in popish times; and in the town is a fountain of very clear water, to which many miraculous cures were attributed.

It still boasts of its *Guild*, or *Town-ball*, on which is a turret, with a fine clock; a good free-school, well-provided; a fine conduit in the market-place; an ancient large church, dedicated to *St. Martin*; and a large new-built meeting-house for the dissenters; which I name, because they assured me there were but three more, and those inconsiderable, in all the county of *Cornwall*; whereas, in *Devonshire*, which is the next county, there are reckoned about 70, some of which are exceeding large.

This town is also remarkable for a great trade in all manufactures of leather, such as boots, shoes, gloves, purses, breeches, &c. and some spinning of late years is set up here, encouraged by the woollen manufacturers of *Devonshire*. It is governed by a mayor and burgesses.

Between these two towns of *Saltaſh* and *Leskard*, is the borough of *St. Germans*; which, as well as
Leskard,

Leskard, sends members to parliament. It is now a village, decayed, and without any market, but the largest parish in the whole county ; in the bounds of which are contained 17 villages, and the town of *Saltash* among them ; for *Saltash* church, it seems, is but a chapel of ease to *St. Germans*. It has been anciently a bishop's see, which was translated from *Bodmyn* hither, and afterwards from *St. Germans* to *Crediton*, then one of the best towns in the county of *Devon*; and thence to *Exeter*. This town takes its name from *St. German*, bishop of *Auxerre* in *Burgundy*, who came over from *France* to preach against the heresy of *Pelagius*, which then began to spread in *England*, and took up his residence here. The ruins of the episcopal palace at *Cuttenbeck*, a mile and a half from the town, which afterwards dwindled into a farin-house, are still visible. A gentleman, of the name of *Eliot*, was lately a great benefactor to this town, having endowed a public school here, repaired the sessions-house, and beautified the church ; where he was buried, and has a fine *Italian* party-coloured marble monument erected to his memory, by his widow. There is an episcopal chair in the church, and several other seats belonging to canons. The town stands on a rising ground, and is built in the form of an amphitheatre.

In the neighbourhood of these towns are many pleasant seats of the *Cornish* gentry, who are indeed very numerous, and sociable, generous, and kind neighbours to one another ; they usually inter-marry among themselves ; from whence they say, the Proverb, *That all the Cornish gentlemen are cousins*. It is the very same in *Wales* ; where the greatest compliment that one gentleman can make to another of the same county, is to call him cousin. There is a great conformity of manners, customs, and usages, between the *Welsh* and *Cornish* ; who are accounted of

the

the same origin, and descendants also of the ancient *Britons*; and there is likewise a great affinity between the old *Cornish* and *Welsh* languages.

On the hills north of *Leskard*, and in the way between that town and *Launceston*, are many tin-mines, and some of the richest veins of that metal in the whole county; which, when cast at the bowling-houses into blocks, are sent to *Leskard* to be coined.

From *Leskard*, in our course west, we are necessarily carried to the sea-coast, because of the river *Fowey*, which empties itself into the sea, at a large mouth; and hereby, this river rising in the middle of the breadth of the county, and running south, and the river *Camel* rising not far from it, and running north, with a like large channel, the land from *Bodmyn* to the western part of the county is almost made an island, and in a manner cut off from the eastern; the isthmus, or neck of land between, being not above 12 miles over.

On the south-west from *Leskard*, we come to *Foy*, or *Fowey*, an ancient borough-town, and formerly very large and potent; for the *Foyens*, as they were then called, were able to fit out large fleets, not only of merchant-ships, but even of men of war; and with these not only fought with, but several times vanquished and routed the squadron of the cinque-port-men, who, in those days, were very powerful.

Mr. *Camden* observes, that the town of *Foy* quartered some part of the arms of every one of those cinque-ports with its own; intimating, that it had, at several times, triumphed over them all: and indeed *Foy* was once so powerful, that it fitted out fleets against the *French*, and took several of their men of war, when they were at variance with *England*, enriching their town by the spoil of their enemies.

Foy,

Foy, at this time, is a very fine town; it lies extended on the west side of the river, for above a mile, the buildings fine; and there are a great many flourishing merchants in it, who have a great share in the fishing-trade, especially for pilchards. In this town is also a coinage for the *TIN*, of which a great quantity is dug up in the country north and west. The church is ancient, and very fine. The town sends two members to parliament, and is governed by a mayor, recorder, eight aldermen, &c.

The river *Fowey*, which is very broad and deep here, was formerly navigable by ships of good burden, as high as the borough town of *Leftwithiel*, an ancient, and once a flourishing, but now a decayed place; and as to trade and navigation, quite destitute, which is occasioned by the river being filled up with sand.

Leftwithiel was called, in the *British* time, *Pen Uchel Coed*, i. e. an high place with wood. It became since the ancient residence of the dukes of *Cornwall*. The ruins of a castle belonging to them are still to be seen, on a rising ground, at a little distance from the town. The church is an handsome edifice; but the steeple carries the marks of the civil wars in the reign of *Charles I.* when the great hall and exchequer of the said dukes of *Cornwall* were also utterly defaced. Some say this town was formerly the county-town; and it still retains several advantages, which support its figure: as, 1. That it is one of the coinage or stannary-towns. 2. The common gaol for the whole stannary is here, as are also the county-courts for *Cornwall*. 3. It has the privilege of sending two members to parliament.

Leftwithiel is governed by seven capital burgesses, of which one is mayor, and 17 assistants, or common-councilmen.

Behind

Behind *Foy*, and nearer to the coast, at the mouth of a small river, which some call *Loe*, though without any authority, stand two borough towns opposite to one another, bearing the name of *East Loe*, and *West Loe*. These are both good trading towns, and especially for fish; and, which is very particular, are like *Weymouth* and *Melcombe* in *Dorsetshire*, separated only by the creek, or river; and yet each of them sends members to parliament. These towns are joined together by a very beautiful and stately stone bridge, having 15 arches.

East Loe was the ancienter corporation of the two; and, some ages ago, the greater and more considerable town; but now they tell us, *West Loe* is the richest, and has the most ships belonging to it, but has neither church, nor chapel, nor meeting-house, in it. Were they put together, they would make a very handsome sea-port town. *West Loe* is governed by 12 burgesses, and *East Loe* by nine, one of which is annually chosen mayor, with a court of aldermen, and a recorder.

Passing from hence, and ferrying over *Foy* river, we come into a large country, without many towns of note in it, but very well furnished with gentlemens seats, and a little higher up with tin-works.

The sea making several deep bays here, they who travel by land are obliged to go higher into the country, to pass above the water, especially at *Trewardreth-bay*, which lies very broad, above ten miles within the country; which passing at *Trewardreth*, a town of no great note, though the bay takes its name from it, the next inlet of the sea is the famous firth, or inlet, called *Falmouth-haven*. It is certainly, next to *Milford haven* in *South Wales*, the fairest and best road for shipping that is in the whole isle of *Britain*; whether we consider the depth of water for above 20 miles within land; the safety of riding, sheltered

sheltered from all kind of winds or storms ; the good anchorage, and the many creeks, all navigable, where the ships may run in and be safe.

There are six or seven very considerable places upon this haven, and the rivers from it ; viz. *Grampound*, *Tregony*, *Truro*, *Penryn*, *St. Mawes*, *Falmouth*, and *Pendennis*. The five first of these send members to parliament ; although the town of *Falmouth*, as big as all of them together (*Truro* excepted), and richer than ten such, sends none. Indeed, till the sixth of *Edward VI.* none but *Launceston*, *Leskard*, *Left-withiel*, *Truro*, *Bodmyn*, *Helflon*, and *Boffiney*, sent any.

St. Mawes, and *Pendennis*, or *Pen dînas* (which signifies, in the old *British*, the end or head of a city), are two fortifications placed at the points, or entrance of this haven, opposite to one another, though not with a communication or view. They are very strong ; the former principally by sea, having a good platform of guns, pointing athwart the channel, and planted on a level with the water ; but *Pendennis* castle is strong by land, as well as by water, is regularly fortified, has good out-works, and generally a strong garrison ; and each of them has a governor.

St. Mawes, otherwise called *St. Mary's*, has a town annexed to the castle, and is a borough ; but has neither church, chapel, meeting-house, fair, nor market.

The town of *Falmouth* is by much the richest and best trading town in this county, though not so ancient as its neighbour-town of *Truro* ; and, indeed, is in some things obliged to acknowledge its seniority ; and the *Truro* men receive several duties collected in *Falmouth*, particularly wharfage for the merchandizes landed or shipped off ; but the town of *Falmouth* has gotten the trade, at least the best part of

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of it, from the other, which is chiefly owing to the situation; for, lying upon the sea, but within the entrance, ships of the greatest burden come up to the very quay; and the whole royal navy might ride safely in the road; whereas the town of *Truro*, lying far within, and at the mouth of two fresh rivers, is not navigable for vessels of above 150 tons, or thereabouts; the trade at *Truro* being chiefly, if not altogether, for the shipping off Block *TIN* and *COPPER* ore, the latter being lately found in large quantities in some of the mountains between *Truro* and *St. Michael's*, and which is much improved since several mills are erected at *Bristol*, and other parts, for the manufactures of *battery-ware*, as it is called.

Falmouth is well-built, has abundance of shipping belonging to it, is full of rich merchants, and has an increasing trade, because of the setting up, of late years, the *English* packets between this port and *Lisbon*; which occasions a new commerce between *Portugal* and this town, amounting to a very great value. There are packets also established to the *Groyne* in *Spain*, to *North America*, and to the *West-Indies*.

It is true, part of this trade was founded in a clandestine commerce carried on by the said packets at *Lisbon*, where, being the king's ships, and claiming the privilege of not being searched or visited by the custom-house officers, they found means to carry off great quantities of *British* manufactures, which they sold on board to the *Portuguese* merchants, and they conveyed them on shore, as it is supposed, without paying custom.

But the government there getting intelligence of it, and complaint being made in *England* also, where it was found to be prejudicial to the fair merchant, that trade has been effectually stopped; but the *Fal-*

mouth merchants, having by this means gotten a taste of the Portuguese trade, have maintained it ever since in ships of their own. These packets formerly brought over vast quantities of gold in specie, either in inidores, or in bars of gold, on account of the merchants at *London*.

The custom-house for all the towns in this port, and the head collector, is established at this town; where the duties, including those of the other ports, are very considerable. Here is also a great fishery for pilchards; and the merchants of *Falmouth* have the chief stroke in that profitable trade.

Truro, though it gives place to *Falmouth*, is however a considerable town, governed by a mayor, four aldermen, and a recorder. The mayor is also mayor of *Falmouth*. It stands up the water north-and-by-east from *Falmouth*, in the utmost extended branch of the haven, at the conflux of two rivers, which, though not of any long course, have a very good appearance for a port, and make a large wharf between them in the front of the town; and the water here makes a good port for small ships, though it be at the influx, but not for ships of burden. There are three churches in it.

Tregony, or *Tregenau* (which in *British* signifies the mouth-town), is a borough-town upon the same water, north-east from *Falmouth*, distant about 16 miles from it, but is a town of very little trade; nor indeed have any of the towns so far within the shore (notwithstanding the benefit of the water) any considerable trade, but what is carried on under the merchants of *Falmouth* or *Truro*. It was incorporated by *James I.* and is governed by a mayor, recorder, and 12 capital burgesses.

Grampound is a market-town and borough, governed by a mayor, eight aldermen, a recorder, and town-clerk, about four miles farther up the water.

This

This place indeed has a claim to antiquity, and is an appendix to the dutchy of *Cornwall*, of which it holds at a fee-farm rent, and pays to the king 10*l.* 11*s.* 1*d.* *per annum*. It has no parish-church, but only a chapel of ease to an adjacent parish. Here are some remains to be seen of a famous *Caer Falau*, which, in the *British*, signifies *Felin-wood*, granted, with all the lands in it, to the town, in king *Edward III.*'s time.

Penrbyn, a promontory or cape, another borough-town, governed by a mayor, eleven aldermen, and a common-council, a recorder, &c. and sending two members to parliament, is up the same branch of the haven as *Falmouth*, but stands four miles higher towards the west, upon an hill; yet ships come to it of as great a size as can come to *Truro*. It is a very pleasant agreeable town, and for that reason has many merchants in it, who would perhaps otherwise live at *Falmouth*. The chief commerce of these towns, as to their sea-affairs, is the pilchard and *Newfoundland* fishing, which is very profitable to them all. It had formerly a conventional church, with a chantry, and a religious house, a cell to *Kirton*; but they are all demolished, and scarce the ruins of them distinguishable enough to know one part from another. The sea embraces this town on each side.

Penrbyn is exceedingly well watered, having water running in wooden pipes through the streets, and at intervals cisterns to receive it; and it is so contrived, that what overflows the cistern runs into another wooden pipe; and so interchangeably down the hill the town stands upon. Besides this, almost every house hath spring-water, a garden, and an orchard to itself.

Quitting *Falmouth-haven*, from *Penrbyn* west, we came to *Helfston*, another borough-town, at about

seven miles distance : it stands upon the little river *Cober*, which however admits the sea so into its bottom, as to make a tolerable good harbour for ships, a little below the town. It is the fifth town allowed for the coining tin, and several of the ships called *Tin Ships* are laden here.

Helfton is large and populous, and has four spacious streets, an handsome church, and a good trade. It is governed by a mayor, aldermen, and common-council. Beyond it is a market-town, though of no resort for trade, called *Market-Jew*: it lies indeed on the sea-side, but has no harbour or safe road for shipping.

At *Helford* is a small, but good harbour, between *Falmouth* and this port, where many times the *Tin* ships go in to load for *London*; also here are a good number of fishing-vessels for the pilchard trade, and abundance of skilful fishermen.

Pensance is the farthest town of any note west, being 289 miles from *London*, and within about ten miles of the promontory called the *Land's End*; so that this promontory is from *London* 299 miles, or thereabouts. This is a market-town of good business, well-built, and populous; has a good trade, and a great many ships belonging to it, notwithstanding it is so remote. Here are also a great many good families of gentlemen, though in this utmost angle of the nation; and, which is yet more strange, the veins of lead, tin, and copper ore, are said to be seen, even to the utmost extent of land, at low-water mark, and in the very sea. So rich, so valuable a treasure is contained in these parts of *Great Britain*, though they are supposed to be poor, because so remote from *London*, which is the centre of our wealth.

At *Pensance* I saw the house in which they lay (and the manner in which they press) their fish, especially

especially pilchards; they pile them up on a bed of great length and breadth, to wit, as long and broad as the house made for that purpose will permit, and breast-high; then in the wall behind, they have a hole into which they thrust a rafter or post of timber, (which reacheth cross the bed of fish), and on the other end of it hang one or two more great stones, of which they have many lying there, with a great hook of iron fastened in them for that purpose; of these holes and rafters they have many all along the bed, which press down the boards, wherewith I conceive the bed of fish is covered, and so press the fish equally underneath the bed; they have a gutter to receive and convey the oil which comes from the fish into a vessel made on purpose in the ground at one end of the house.

They have a pretty quay made with a pier of stone, both at *Pensance* and *St. Ives*.

Between *Pensance* and *St. Burien*, a town midway between it and the *Land's End*, stands a circular temple of the *Druuids*, consisting of 19 stones, the distance between each being 12 feet, and a 20th in the centre, much higher than the rest; and are not unlike those of *Stone-henge* in *Wiltshire*. The parish where they stand is called *Biscardwoune*, from whence the ancient and noble family of *Boscawen* (viscounts *Palmouth*) derives its name.

In *Cleer* parish, in this county, six or eight stones of prodigious bigness likewise stand up in a circle; a monument of the like nature.

These are probably, as those at *Stone-henge* and *Burien*, remains of *Druuids* temples.

And we shall mention in this place, that at *Stan-drew*, in *Somersetshire*, is another temple of the *Druuids*, called *The Weddings*.

The *Maen-amber*, near this town of *Pensance*, was also a very remarkable stone, which, as Mr. *Camden*

tells us, though it be of a vast bigness, yet might be moved with one finger, notwithstanding a great number of men could not remove it from its place. It was destroyed, as one of the same sort was in *Fife-shire, Scotland*, by one of *Oiver's governors*; for those reformers had a notion of these works being of a superstitious kind.

Maen is a *British* word for a great stone; there is one of these stones, as Dr. *Stukeley* tell us, in *Derbyshire*; and Mr. *Toland* acquaints us, that there are also such in *Ireland*, as well as *Wales*: he gives the following account of this piece of antiquity.

"At a place called *Maen amber*, says he, is an heap of stones, roundish, and of a vast bulk; but so artificially pitched on flat stones, sometimes more, sometimes fewer in number, that touching the great stone lightly, it moves, and seems to totter, to the great amazement of the ignorant; but stirs not, at least not sensibly, when one uses his whole strength."

Near *Pensance*, but open to the sea, is that gulph they call *Mount's Bay*, named so from an high hill standing in the water, or rather a rock, which they call *St. Michael's Mount*; the seamen call it only *The Cornish Mount*. On the top is a church, which is occasionally used for divine service, and has a good ring of bells in the tower. At the bottom are docks for the building and repairing of small vessels, with houses for the habitation of the artificers, &c. At low water, there is a dry passage from the main land to it. At *Pensance* is a very good road for shipping, which makes their town a place of resort.

A little up in the country towards the north-west is *Godolphin*; which, though an hill, rather than a town, gives name to the ancient and noble family of *Godolphin*; and nearer on the northern coast is *Ryalton*, which gave the second title to the earls of

Godolphin.

Godolphin. This place also is infinitely rich in tin mines.

But I must not end this account at the utmost extent of the island of Great Britain west, without taking some little notice of those kind of excrescences of the island, the rocks of Scilly, where many good ships are almost continually dashed in pieces, and many brave lives lost, in spite of the mariner's best skill, or the light-houses and other sea-marks best notice.

These isles, called in Latin *Silurum Insulae*, lie about 30 miles from the Land's End, and are a cluster of small islands, to the number, as some reckon, of 145. *Scilly* was once the chief in estimation. But *St. Mary* being the fruitfulllest and largest, though but nine miles about, has now the pre-eminence; and it has a very good harbour, fortified with a castle built by queen Elizabeth. These isles were conquered by *Athelstane*, one of the Saxon kings; and from his time they have been deemed a part of the county of Cornwall.

These islands lie so in the middle between the two vast openings of the north and south narrow seas, or, as the sailors call them, the *Bristol Channel*, and *The Channel* (so called by way of eminence), that it cannot, or perhaps never will, be avoided, but that several ships in the dark of the night, and in stress of weather, may, by being out in their reckonings, or by other unavoidable accidents, mistake; and if they do, they are sure, as the sailors call it, to run *bump ashore* upon *Scilly*, where they find no quarter among the breakers, but are beat to pieces, without any possibility of escape.

One can hardly mention the rocks of *Scilly*, without letting fall a tear to the memory of sir *Cloudesley Shovel*, and all the gallant spirits with him; who, in the admiral's ship, with three other men of war,

and all their men, running upon these rocks, right afore the wind, in a dark night, were lost, and not a man saved, in his return from a fruitless expedition against *Toulon*.

They tell us of eleven sail of merchant ships homeward-bound, and richly laden from the southward, who had the like fate, in the same place, a great many years ago; and that some of them coming from *Spain*, and having a great quantity of bullion or pieces of eight on board, the money frequently drives on shore still, and that in good quantities, especially after stormy weather.

This may be the reason why, as we observed during our short stay here, several mornings, after it had blown something hard in the night, the sands were covered with country-people, running to and fro to see if the sea had cast up any thing of value. This the seamen call *going a shoring*; and it seems they often find good purchase. Sometimes also dead bodies are cast up here, the consequence of shipwrecks among those fatal rocks and islands; as also broken pieces of ships, casks, chests, and almost every thing that will float, or roll on shore by the surges of the sea.

Nor is it seldom that the savage country-people scuffle and fight about the right to what they find, and that in a desperate manner; so that this part of *Cornwall* may truly be said to be inhabited by a fierce and ravenous people, like those on the coast of *Sussex*; for they are so greedy and eager for prey, that they are charged with strange, bloody, and cruel dealings, even sometimes with one another; but especially with poor distressed seamen, when they are forced on shore by tempests, and seek help for their lives, and where they find the rocks themselves not more merciless than the people who range about them for prey.

Here also, as a farther testimony of the immense riches which have been lost at times upon this coast,

we found several engineers and projectors with diving engines, attempting to recover what had been lost, and that not always unsuccessfully.

From the tops of the hills, on this extremity of the land, you may see out into what they call the *Chaps of the Channel*; which, as it is the greatest inlet of commerce, and the most frequented by merchant-ships of any place in the world; so one seldom looks out to seaward, but something new presents of ships passing, or repassing, either on the great or lesser channel.

The point of the main-land, called the *Lizard*, which runs out to the southward, and the other promontory called the *Land's End*, make the two angles or horns, as they are called, from whence it is supposed this country received its first name in *Cornwall*, or, as Mr. *Camden* says, *Cornubia* in the *Latin*, and, in the *British*, *Cerneu*, as running out in two vastly extended horns.

The *Lizard* point is still more useful (though not so far west) than the other, which is more properly called *The Land's End*, being more frequently first discovered from the sea; and is therefore the general guide, and the land which the ships choose to make first; being then sure, that they are past *Scilly*.

Nature has fortified this part of the island of *Britain* in a strange manner, and so as is worth a traveller's observation.

First, there are the islands of *Scilly*, and the rocks about them; which are placed like out-works to resist the first assaults of this enemy the ocean, and so break the force of it; as the piles or stirlings (as they are called) are placed before the solid stone-work of *London-bridge*, to fence off the force, either of the water or ice, or any thing else that might be dangerous to the work.

Then there are a vast number of sunk rocks, besides such as are visible, and above water; which gradually

lessen the quantity of water, that would otherwise lie with an infinite weight and force upon the land. It is observed, that these rocks lie under water for a great way off into the sea on every side the said two horns or points of land ; so breaking the force of the water, and lessening the weight of it.

But besides this, the whole body of the land, which makes this part of the isle of *Britain*, seems to be one solid rock, as if it was formed by nature to resist the otherwise irresistible power of the ocean. And indeed, if one were to observe with what fury the sea comes on sometimes against the shore, especially at the *Lizard Point*, where there are but few, if any, outworks (as I call them), to resist it; how high the waves come forward, storming on the back of one another, particularly when the wind blows off-sea ; one would wonder, that even the strongest rocks themselves should be able to resist and repel them. But, as I said, the country seems to be one great body of stone, and prepared so on purpose.

And yet, as if all this were not enough, Nature has provided another strong fence ; and that is, that these vast rocks are, in a manner, cemented together by the solid and weighty ore of tin and copper, especially the latter, which is plentifully found upon the very outmost edge of the land, and with which the stones may be said to be soldered together, lest the force of the sea should separate and disjoint them, and, breaking in upon these fortifications of the island, destroy its chief security *.

* It is very probable, that all these isles were once part of the main land ; but the sea, violently beating against it, carried off the softer parts, and left the harder. This process of Nature and Time may be seen in miniature at the western point of the *Isle of Wight*, and many other exposed places. Undoubtedly, had not such hard bodies as those rocks been there, the sea would have made still greater havoc, and carried away much more of the land. †

This

This is certain, that there is a more than ordinary quantity of tin, copper, and lead also, fixed by the great Author of Nature in these very remote angles; so that the ore is found upon the very surface of the rocks a good way into the sea, and does not only lie, as it were, upon or between the stones among the earth, which in that case might be washed from it by the sea; but is even blended or mixed in with the stones themselves, so that the stones must be split into pieces to come at it. By this mixture the rocks are made exceedingly weighty and solid, and thereby still the more qualified to repel the force of the sea.

Upon this remote part of the island we saw numbers of that famous king of *Crows*, which is known by the name of the *Cornish Chough*; they are the same kind which are found in *Switzerland* among the *Alps*, and which *Pliny* pretended were peculiar to those mountains, and calls the *Pyrrhocorax*. The body is black, the legs, feet, and bill, of a yellow, almost to a red. I could not find that it was affected for any good quality it had; nor is the flesh good to eat; for it feeds much on fish and carrion; it is counted little better than a kite; for it is of a ravenous nature, and is very mischievous; it will steal and carry away any thing about the house, that is not too heavy for it, though not fit for its food; as knives, forks, spoons, and linen-cloths, or whatever it can fly away with; sometimes, they say, it has stolen bits of firebrands, or lighted candles, and lodged them in the stacks of corn, and in the thatch of barns and houses, and set them on fire.

LETTER VII.

A more particular DESCRIPTION of the SCILLY ISLANDS.

THE Scilly islands, of which the most noted are 27 in number, lie, as I have said, at about 30 miles distance from Mount's Bay, and are thought formerly to have been joined to that main land by an isthmus, or neck of land, in length of time washed away by the sea, in the same manner as Great Britain is supposed anciently to have been joined to France.

These islands were called by the ancient Greeks *Hesperides* and *Cassiterides*, from their western situation, and their abounding with tin. The Dutch call them *Sorlings*; and in several of the Tower records, and ancient manuscripts, they are called *Sully* or *Sulley*, which is probably a contraction from *Insulae*, as isle from islands.

The Scilly isles lie due west from the *Lizard Point*, about 17 leagues, and nearly west by south, from the southermost, or old land's end next *Mount's Bay*, ten leagues; also W. S. W. from the middlemost or westermost land's end above nine leagues, before the entrance of the *Bristol* and *British* channels. They are seen from the land's end in a clear day, and at about six or seven leagues off *Smith's sound*, sandy ground, and about 60 fathom water; also from the northward, at 60 fathom,ousy, sandy ground as far.

Twenty-one or twenty-two leagues W. by N. and W. N. W. from Scilly, is a bank, on which there is but 50, 51, or 52 fathom water, but between this bank and Scilly 60 fathoms.

Beheld

Beheld at a distance, these islands appear like so many high banks in the water, as land usually appears off at sea. But the rocks about the islands, especially those to the westward, appear off at sea like old castles and churches, with the seas alternately flying over them in white sheets, or fleeces of that element.

The names, qualities, &c. of these islands, with the quantity of land, in acres, contained in each, may be seen by the following table.

Five larger islands, inhabited by about 1400 people.

	Acres.
1 St. Mary,	1520
2 Tresco,	880
3 St. Martin,	720
4 St. Agnes,	300
5 Bryer,	330
6 Sampson, (One family only)	120

Four scattered islands bearing grafts.

7 St. Helen,	180
8 Tean,	70
9 White Island,	50
10 Annet,	40

Ten eastern islands stocked with rabbits, and fit for feeding cattle in summer.

11 Great Arthur,	30
12 Great Ganilly,	20
13 Great Gannick,	18
14 Minewithen,	15
15 Nornour,	13
16 Little Arthur,	7
17 Little Ganilly,	6
18 Little Gannick,	5
19 Ragged	

				Acres.
19	<i>Ragged Island,</i>	—	—	5
20	<i>Ianiswouls,</i>	—	—	4
Seven scattered islands placed about the largest.				
21	<i>Minarclo,</i>	—	—	12
22	<i>Gunball,</i>	—	—	10
23	<i>Northwithiel,</i>	—	—	9
24	<i>White Island,</i> near <i>Sam'fon,</i>	—	—	7
25	<i>Round Island,</i>	—	—	3
26	<i>Scilly Island,</i>	—	—	1
27	<i>Rat Island,</i>	—	—	$0\frac{1}{2}$

Sum total, $4275\frac{1}{2}$

The Half, $2137\frac{3}{4}$

Acres, at least, are tillable and improveable.

Besides the above, which are most noted, there may be numbered about a dozen very small islands bearing grass; and rocks innumerable above water.

St. Mary's is the largest of the *Scilly* islands, containing as many houses and inhabitants as all the rest. Its greatest length is about two miles and a half, middlemost breadth almost one and a half, and may be reckoned betwixt nine and ten miles in circumference.

The hills are rocky, rising in some places to a great height, and are enriched with mineral stores. The valleys are fertile, and the fields, like those in *Cornwall*, are inclosed with stone hedges. Also the healthy plains and turfey downs, in several places of this island, afford their use and pleasure. The highest land yields a prospect of *England* in a clear day, and of ships going out and returning at the mouths of the channels. Here is also morais-ground, in two parts of this island, called the *Upper* and *Lower Moors*, which supply the cattle with water in dry

dry seasons; in the upper of which, the farthest from *Hugh-town*, is a pretty large and deep lake.

About two furlongs from *Hugh-town*, the capital of *St. Mary's*, to the eastward, is a curious sandy bay, called *Pomelin*, where the beach, from the mark of flood to the mark of ebb, is covered with an exceeding fine writing sand, and of which ship-loads may be gathered at low-water. On account of its plenty and brightness, it is fetched by the inhabitants for sanding their houses in *Hugh-town*, and other parts of this island; and presents of it are made to many parts of *England*, as a curiosity.

The greatest curiosities observed in *St. Mary's*, are the rocks of *Peninnis*, and a subterraneous passage near them, whose entrance is called *Piper's Hole*. This passage is said to communicate under ground with the island of *Tresco*, as far as the north-west cliffs or banks of it, where another cavity is seen, that goes by the same name with the former.

Going in at the orifice, at *Peninnis* banks in *St. Mary's*, it is above a man's height, and of as much space in its breadth; but grows lower and narrower farther in. A little beyond which entrance appear rocky basons or reservoirs, continually running over with fresh water, descending, as it distills, from the sides of the rocky passage: by the fall of water heard, farther in it is probable there may be rocky descents in the passage: the drippings from the sides have worn the passage, as far as it can be seen, into very various angular surfaces.

St. Mary's Island is defended by a strong garrison, situated upon the west part of it, overlooking the town and isthmus, and commanding the country that way and to the sea about the batteries, of which there are several strong ones, mounted with 64 pieces of cannon, some of 18 pounders. It also contains a company of soldiers, a master-gunner, and six other

gunners,

gunners, a store-house, with arms for arming 300 islanders, who are obliged to assist the military forces at the approach of an enemy; a guard-house, barracks, bridge, and strong gates; and, upon the summit of the hill, above a regular ascent, going from *Hughtown*, stands his majesty's *Star-castle*, with ramparts and a ditch about it. This castle commands a prospect of all the islands and seas about them; from whence, in a fair day, are also beheld ships passing to and fro, and *England*, as though rising out of the sea, at a distance. Here the king's colours are hoisted, and appear conspicuous aloft, for ships to observe and obey coming in. The right honourable the lord *Godolphin*, who is also proprietor, commands as governor of all the islands; and a lieutenant-governor is here commissioned to act under his lordship by his majesty, but not upon establishment. The captain of the company commands in his lordship's and the lieutenant-governor's absence, who never reside there.

About a mile south west of the south-part of *St. Mary's* garrison, lies *St. Agnes Island*, otherwise called the *Light-house Island*, upon which stands a very high and strong light-house, seen in the night at a great distance, by which ships going out of, or coming into, the two channels, avoid falling in with the rocks, lying thicker about this than any other of the Scilly islands. It is also of use to all coasting vessels crossing the channels. There is nothing particular in the soil of this island, different from the rest of the islands, (being, in that respect, very much alike,) nor of the dwellings, or description of places, except the light-keeper's habitation and employment, and a church in use for devotion.

About three miles and a half northerly of the most northern part of *St. Agnes's Island*, or two miles northerly from *St. Mary's Key*, lies the island of

Tresco,

Tresco, the capital town of which is called the *Dolphin*, (probably from *Godolphin*,) consisting of a church, and about half a score stone-built houses; and near the landing-place of *Tresco*, in sight of *New Grimsby Harbour*, stands a dwelling called *Tresco-palace*. This formerly used to be a house of resort for masters of ships, and strangers coming to this island; but the custom has some time been altered to a house of better accommodation, farther up the island. Hereabouts are several scattered stone-built houses inhabited by labouring people*.

About two miles from the northermost part of *St. Mary's*, or one from the eastermost part of *Tresco*, lies the island of *St. Martin*; upon the extremity of which, at the outermost part, stands a day-mark, next the coming in of *Crow-sound*, appearing, at a distance, as conspicuous by day, as the light-house upon *St. Agnes*, but is not altogether so high and large. It is built with rock-stone, round next the bottom, and tapering upwards. This serves to direct vessels crossing the channels, or coming into *Scilly*.

Almost half a mile from the west-side of *Tresco Island*, to the westward of the landing-place, lies the island of *Bryer*, which is inhabited by several families, some of a generous disposition, and persons of able circumstances.

Samphir, and many kinds of medicinal herbs, grow here, as in several of the other islands.

The number of people upon the island of *St. Mary* are about 700, including men, women, and children, and about as many in the islands of *Tresco*, *St. Mar-*

* The remains of the abbey are yet visible, the situation well chosen, with a fine bay of fresh water before it, half a mile long, and a furlong wide, with an ever-green bank high enough to keep out the sea, and serving at once to preserve the pond, and shelter the abbey. In this pond there are most excellent eels, and the lands lying round it are by far the best in those islands. *Campbell's Political Survey of Great Britain*.

tin, Bryer, St. Agnes, and Sampson; in the last and smallest of which inhabited islands lives but one family, which goes to the places of worship in the other islands; here being no opportunity of publick devotion, nor of communication, but by means of a boat.

The men are loyal subjects, endowed with much natural strength of body and mind, giving proofs of their fortitude in bearing fatigues and hardships; are very good seamen and pilots, and want only an opportunity of education, to render themselves more useful subjects.

The women are very dextrous in the use of the needle, and also in talents of good housewifery; nor do they want beauty, and other engaging qualities to recommend them.

The air of these islands (says Mr. *Campbell*) is equally mild and pure; their winters are seldom subject to frost and snow. When the former happens, it lasts not long, and the latter never lies upon the ground. The heat of their summer is much abated by sea-breezes; they are indeed frequently incommoded by sea-fogs, but these are not unwholesome. Agues are rare, and fevers more so. The most fatal distemper is the small-pox; yet those who live temperately commonly survive to a great age, and are remarkably free from diseases.

The soil is very good, and produces grain of all sorts, except wheat, of which they had anciently great quantities. They still grow a little; but the bread made of it is unpleasant. For this reason, they chiefly eat what is made of barley; and of this they have such abundance, that though they use it both for bread and beer, they have more than suffices for their own consumption. Potatoes is a new improvement; and they prosper to such a degree, that, in some places, they have two crops in a year. They have

have all sorts of roots, and pulse and fallads grow well. Dwarf fruit-trees, gooseberries, currants, raspberries, and every thing of that kind, under proper shelter, thrive exceedingly; but they have no tall trees. The ranuncula, anemone, and most kind of flowers, are successfully cultivated in their gardens. They have wild fowls of all sorts, from the swan to the snipe, and a particular kind called the hedge-chicken, which is not inferior to the ortolan. Tame fowl, puffins, and rabbits, in great number; their black cattle are generally small, but very well tasted, though they feed upon ore-wood: their horses are little, but strong and lively.

I have already said, that sir *Cloudesley Shovel* was lost near these islands, in his return from *Toulon*: it was upon the *Gilston Rock*, October 22, 1707, and not upon the *Bishop* and *Clerks*, as by some have been represented. It was thick foggy weather, when the whole fleet in company, coming (as they thought) near the land, agreed to lie to in the afternoon; but sir *Cloudesley*, in the *Affociation*, ordering fail to be made, first struck in the night, and sunk immediately. Several persons of distinction being on board at that time were lost; particularly the lady *Shovel's* two sons by her former husband, sir *John Narborough*, with about 800 men. The *Eagle*, captain *Hancock*, commander, underwent the same fate. The *Romney* and *Firebrand* also struck and were lost; but the two captains and 25 of their men were saved. The other men of war in company escaped, by having timely notice.

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